



Entered on Docket
May 25, 2011


Hon. Gregg W. Zive
United States Bankruptcy Judge

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11 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
12 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

13 In re :
14 STATION CASINOS, INC., *et al.*,

15 Debtors and Debtors in Possession.¹

16 Affects all debtors listed in footnote 2²

Chapter 11
Case No. BK-09-52477

Jointly Administered BK Cases: 09-52470
through 09-52487; 10-50381; 11-51188;
11-51190 through 11-51219; and 11-51702

17 **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS**
18 **OF LAW REGARDING CONFIRMATION**
19 **OF “FIRST AMENDED PREPACKAGED**
20 **JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF**
21 **REORGANIZATION FOR SUBSIDIARY**
22 **DEBTORS, ALIANTE DEBTORS AND**
23 **GREEN VALLEY RANCH GAMING, LLC**
24 **(DATED MAY 20, 2011)” WITH RESPECT**
25 **TO SUBSIDIARY DEBTORS AND**
26 **ALIANTE DEBTORS**

27 ¹ The debtors in these jointly administered chapter 11 cases are: (i) Station Casinos, Inc.; Northern NV Acquisitions, LLC; Reno Land Holdings, LLC; River Central, LLC; Tropicana Station, LLC; FCP Holding, Inc.; FCP Voteco, LLC; Fertitta Partners LLC; FCP MezzCo Parent, LLC; FCP MezzCo Parent Sub, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower VII, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower VI, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower V, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower IV, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower III, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower II, LLC; FCP MezzCo Borrower I, LLC and FCP PropCo, LLC (collectively, the “SCI Debtors”), (ii) Auburn Development, LLC; Boulder Station, Inc.; Centerline Holdings, LLC; Charleston Station, LLC; CV HoldCo, LLC; Durango Station, Inc.; Fiesta Station, Inc.; Fresno Land Acquisitions, LLC; Gold Rush Station, LLC; Green Valley Station, Inc.; GV Ranch Station, Inc.; Inspirada Station, LLC; Lake Mead Station, Inc.; LML Station, LLC; Magic Star Station, LLC; Palace Station Hotel & Casinos, Inc.; Past Enterprises, Inc.; Rancho Station, LLC; Santa Fe Station, Inc.; SC Durango Development LLC; Sonoma Land Holdings, LLC; Station Holdings, Inc.; STN Aviation, Inc.; Sunset Station, Inc.; Texas Station, LLC; Town Center Station, LLC; Tropicana Acquisitions, LLC; Tropicana Station, Inc.; and Vista Holdings, LLC (collectively, the “Subsidiary Debtors”), (iii) Aliante Gaming, LLC, Aliante Holding, LLC, and Aliante Station LLC (collectively, the “Aliante Debtors”), and (iv) Green Valley Ranch Gaming LLC (“GVR”).

28 ² These Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law apply to the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors, and not to GVR.

1 **I. INTRODUCTION.**

2 1. On July 28, 2009, Station Casinos, Inc. (“SCI”), and certain of its affiliates
 3 commenced chapter 11 cases in this Court (the “SCI Cases”). On February 10, 2010, GV Ranch
 4 Station, Inc. commenced its chapter 11 case in this Court. On August 27, 2010, this Court
 5 entered its order confirming the “First Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for
 6 Station Casinos, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors (Dated July 28, 2010)” (the “SCI Plan”) (docket
 7 no. 2039).³ The Effective Date of the SCI Plan has not yet occurred.

8 2. On April 12, 2011 (the “Petition Date”), the above captioned Subsidiary Debtors
 9 (excluding GV Ranch Station, Inc. which had a chapter 11 case already pending), Aliante
 10 Debtors and GVR commenced their chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”) in this Court.
 11 Pursuant to an order of this Court, the Chapter 11 Cases are jointly administered with the SCI
 12 Cases. Also on April 12, 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Debtors and GVR filed their
 13 “Prepackaged Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Debtors
 14 and Green Valley Gaming, LLC (Dated March 22, 2011)” (the “Plan”), and their “Disclosure
 15 Statement to Accompany Prepackaged Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Subsidiary
 16 Debtors, Aliante Debtors and Green Valley Gaming, LLC (Dated March 22, 2011)” (the
 17 “Disclosure Statement”) (both at docket no. 2797). On April 15, 2011, the Court entered an
 18 order setting May 25, 2011 as the hearing to consider approval of the Disclosure Statement and
 19 confirmation of the Plan, and setting certain deadlines for objections and briefing (the
 20 “Confirmation Hearing Order”).

21 3. On May 9 and 15, 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors filed their first and second Plan
 22 Supplements (docket nos. 2987 and 3092). On May 13, 2011, the Aliante Debtors and GVR
 23 filed their Plan Supplements (docket nos. 3074 and 3087, respectively). On May 19, 2011, the
 24 Aliante Debtors filed the First Amendment to their Plan Supplement (docket no. 3175).

25 4. Prior to the Petition Date, commencing on March 23, 2011, the Subsidiary
 26 Debtors, Aliante Debtors and GVR distributed copies of the Plan and Disclosure Statement and

27
 28 ³ Unless otherwise specified, all “docket no.” references mean the docket in Case No. 09-52477 in this
 Court.

1 related exhibits, schedules and other materials to certain of their creditors, and solicited
 2 prepetition acceptances of the Plan pursuant Section 1125(g) of the Bankruptcy Code (the
 3 “Prepetition Solicitation”). On April, 27, 2011, the Voting and Claims Agent⁴ filed its “Ballot
 4 Summary Declaration in Support of Confirmation of Joint Plan, Certifying Ballots Accepting
 5 and Rejecting the Plan, and Submitting Ballot Reports” with respect to the votes of Holders of
 6 Claims against and Equity Interests in the Subsidiary Debtors and GVR (docket no. 2895) (the
 7 “First Tabulation of Ballots”). On May 6, 2011, the Voting and Claims Agent filed its “Ballot
 8 Summary Declaration in Support of Confirmation of Joint Plan, Certifying Ballots Accepting
 9 and Rejecting the Plan, and Submitting Ballot Reports” with respect to the votes of Holders of
 10 Claims against and Equity Interests in the Aliante Debtors (docket no. 2949) (the “Second
 11 Tabulation of Ballots”). The First and Second Tabulation of Ballots together show that all
 12 Voting Classes voted to accept the Plan.

13 5. On May 16, 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors commenced a solicitation of consents
 14 from the Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders for approval of certain modifications to the Plan that
 15 would have the effect of adding non-debtor Tropicana Station, Inc. (“TSI”) as a Subsidiary
 16 Debtor under the Plan. The proposed modifications were premised upon TSI commencing a
 17 chapter 11 case in this Court on or about May 23, 2011, and the Court entering an order jointly
 18 administering the TSI case with the Chapter 11 Cases. On May 23, 2011, TSI commenced a
 19 chapter 11 case in this Court, Case No. 11-51702. On May 25, 2011, the Court entered an order
 20 jointly administering the TSI chapter 11 case with the other Chapter 11 Cases.

21 6. May 16, 2011 was also the deadline established by the Court for filing and
 22 serving objections to confirmation of the Plan. In fact, no objections to confirmation of the Plan
 23 or to any of the terms of the Plan in respect of the Subsidiary Debtors and the Aliante Debtors
 24 were filed by any Holder of Claims against or Equity Interests in the Subsidiary Debtors or
 25 Aliante Debtors or by any other party in interest in the Chapter 11 Cases of the Subsidiary
 26 Debtors and Aliante Debtors, by that May 16, 2011 deadline. Objections were filed, however, to

27 4 Unless otherwise specified, capitalized terms and phrases used herein have the meanings assigned to
 28 them in the Confirmation Order, Plan, or Disclosure Statement, as applicable. The rules of interpretation
 set forth in Article I.A. of the Plan shall apply to these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

1 confirmation of the Plan with respect to GVR. As a result, GVR concluded that its bankruptcy
 2 Estate would be best served by submission of a separate brief in support of confirmation of the
 3 Plan with respect to GVR, and entry of a separate confirmation order and findings of fact and
 4 conclusions of law with respect to GVR.

5 7. On May 20, 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Debtors and GVR filed their
 6 “First Amended Prepackaged Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Subsidiary Debtors,
 7 Aliante Debtors and Green Valley Ranch Gaming, LLC (Dated May 20, 2011)” (docket no.
 8 3186) (the “Amended Plan”). The Amended Plan adds TSI as a Subsidiary Debtor, provides
 9 additional detail regarding the implementation of the restructuring of the Aliante Debtors, and
 10 makes certain other revisions to the Plan. A redline showing the revisions to the Plan contained
 11 in the Amended Plan was filed on May 20, 2011 (docket no. 3186, Exhibit 2). On May 24, 2011,
 12 an additional revision to the Amended Plan, providing for the addition of the Aliante IP License
 13 Agreement as a New Aliante Transaction Agreement, was filed with the Court, including a
 14 redline showing the changes over the prior filed version (docket no. 3253). The revisions to the
 15 first filed Plan contained in the Amended Plan, and the revisions filed on May 24, 2011 are
 16 hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Plan Modifications.” All further references in these
 17 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to the Plan mean the version filed by the Debtors on
 18 May 24, 2011 (docket no.3253).

19 8. Also on May, 20, 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors filed their:
 20 (a) Memorandum of Law in Support of Confirmation of the Plan solely for the Subsidiary
 21 Debtors and Aliante Debtors, and expressly excluding GVR (docket no. 3187); and
 22 (b) proposed Confirmation Order and proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, in
 23 both cases with respect to the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors only, and expressly
 24 excluding GVR (docket no. 3188). In support of the Memorandum of Law, the Subsidiary
 25 Debtors and Aliante Debtors filed the Declaration of Richard Haskins, Executive Vice President,
 26 General Counsel and Secretary of SCI (docket no.3226).

27 9. Unless expressly stated otherwise herein, all further references contained in these
 28 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to: (a) the “Debtors” mean the Subsidiary Debtors and

1 Aliante Debtors, and do not include GVR; (b) the “Estates” mean the Estates of the Subsidiary
 2 Debtors and Aliante Debtors and do not include the Estate of GVR; (c) the “Chapter 11 Cases”
 3 mean the Chapter 11 Cases of the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors and do not include the
 4 Chapter 11 Case of GVR; and (d) the “Restructuring Transactions” mean only as they apply to
 5 the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors, and not as they apply to GVR.

6 10. A hearing pursuant to Sections⁵ 1127, 1128 and 1129 and Federal Rules of
 7 Bankruptcy Procedure 2002, 3017, 3018, 3019(a), 3020(b) through (e) and 7052 to consider
 8 confirmation of the Plan and approval of the Disclosure Statement was held on May 25, 2011
 9 (the “Confirmation Hearing”).

10 11. The Court has considered all of the papers filed in support of confirmation of the
 11 Plan, including supporting declarations, and the testimony presented and evidence admitted at
 12 the Confirmation Hearing. In connection therewith, the Court takes judicial notice of all of the
 13 papers and pleadings filed by the supporters and opponents of the Plan during the course of the
 14 proceedings leading to the Confirmation Hearing. The Court has entered a separate order
 15 confirming the Plan for the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors (the “Confirmation Order”),
 16 and makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in connection therewith.

17 12. These Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law refer to, in summary fashion,
 18 numerous provisions of the Plan. All such descriptions are qualified by the express terms of the
 19 Plan, which Plan terms control unless expressly modified in the Confirmation Order. In
 20 addition, the failure to specifically include or discuss any particular provision of the Plan in these
 21 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law shall not diminish the effectiveness of any such
 22 provision, it being the intent of the Court that the Plan shall be confirmed in its entirety, and the
 23 Plan is incorporated herein in its entirety by this reference.

24 13. Any finding of fact shall constitute a finding of fact even if it is stated as a
 25 conclusion of law, and any conclusion of law shall constitute a conclusion of law even if it is
 26 stated as a finding of fact. These written Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law shall also

27
 28 ⁵ Unless otherwise specified, all “Section” references are to chapter 11 of Title 11 of the U.S. Code, the
 “Bankruptcy Code.”

1 include any oral findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the Court during or at the
 2 conclusion of the Confirmation Hearing in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 7052, made
 3 applicable to these proceedings by Bankruptcy Rule 9014.

4 **II. FINDINGS OF FACT.**

5 **A. JURISDICTION AND VENUE.**

6 14. The Debtors commenced their respective Chapter 11 Cases by filing voluntary
 7 petitions for relief under chapter 11. Each of the Debtors has its principal place of business or
 8 principal assets in Nevada.

9 **B. COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF**
 10 **SECTION 1129 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE.**

11 **1. Section 1129(a)(1) – Compliance of the Plan**
 12 **with Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.**

13 15. The Plan complies with all applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, as
 14 required by Section 1129(a)(1), including Sections 1122 and 1123.

15 **a. Sections 1122 and 1123(a)(1)-(4) – Classification**
 16 **and Treatment of Claims and Equity Interests.**

17 16. In accordance with the requirements of Sections 1122(a) and 1123(a)(1), Article
 18 III of the Plan designates Classes of Claims and Equity Interests, other than Administrative
 19 Claims and Priority Tax Claims (pursuant to Section 1123(a)(1), classes of Administrative
 20 Claims and Priority Tax Claims are not required to be classified). In accordance with the
 21 requirements of Section 1122(a), each Class of Claims and Equity Interests contains only
 22 Claims or Equity Interests that are substantially similar to the other Claims or Equity Interests
 23 within that Class. The Plan designates 134 Classes of Claims and 30 Classes of Equity Interests
 24 for the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors. Such classification is proper under Section
 25 1122(a) because such Claims and Equity Interests have differing rights among each other and
 26 against the Debtors' assets or differing interests in the Debtors. Valid business, factual and legal
 27 reasons exist for classifying the various Classes of Claims and Equity Interests in the manner set
 28 forth in the Plan.

1 17. In accordance with the requirements of Sections 1123(a)(2) and 1123(a)(3),
2 Article III of the Plan specifies all Classes of Claims and Equity Interests that are not impaired
3 under the Plan and specifies the treatment of all Classes of Claims and Equity Interests that are
4 impaired under the Plan. Consistent with Section 1123(a)(4), Article III of the Plan also
5 provides the same treatment for each Claim or Equity Interest within a particular Class, unless
6 the Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest agrees to less favorable treatment of its Claim or Equity
7 Interest.

b. Section 1123(a)(5) – Adequate Means for Implementation of the Plan.

18. Article V and certain other of the provisions of the Plan contain the principal
means for the Plan's implementation. Those provisions relate to, among other things, the
conveyances, assignments, transfers and deliveries of the New Opco Acquired Assets, New
Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets⁶ and the Transferred Aliante
Hotel Assets to the applicable Transferee Parties, pursuant to the Plan and the Restructuring
Transactions. All references herein to the "Restructuring Transactions" means the transactions
contemplated by the New Opco Purchase Agreement,⁷ New Opco Implementation Agreements,
Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco Implementation Agreements, the Amended and
Restated Operating Agreement for NP IP Holdings LLC, the New Aliante Transaction
Agreements and the other Plan implementation agreements, documents and instruments referred
to in Article V of the Plan or otherwise contained in the Plan, or executed and delivered to
implement the transactions contemplated under the Plan. The Persons and Entities receiving the
New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings
Assets and the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets pursuant to the Restructuring Transactions,

⁶ “Aliante Holdings Assets” means all the assets of Aliante Debtor Aliante Holding, LLC other than the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets and the Equity Interests in Aliante Gaming.

26 ⁷ As used herein, the “New Opco Purchase Agreement” means the Asset Purchase Agreement dated
27 June 7, 2010, by and among the Sellers (as defined therein) and FG Opco Acquisitions LLC, a newly
28 formed Nevada limited liability company, as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to
time, a form of which was filed with the Bankruptcy Court on May 25, 2010 (docket no. 1526) and was
approved by the SCI Confirmation Order, and under the definition set forth in the SCI Plan is also known
as the “New Propco Purchase Agreement.”

together with such Persons' and Entities' Subsidiaries, designees, Affiliates and other Related Persons, are hereinafter referred to individually as a "Transferee Party" and collectively as the "Transferee Parties."

4 19. The Restructuring Transactions carry out several of the methods for
5 implementing a chapter 11 plan expressly provided for in Section 1123(a)(5): Section
6 1123(A)(5)(B) (transfer of all or any part of the property of the estate to one or more entities);
7 Section 1123(a)(5)(D) (sale of property of the estate, and distribution of other property of the
8 estate to the holders of interests in such property); Section 1123(a)(5)(E) (satisfaction or
9 modification of liens); Section 1123(a)(5)(F) (cancellation of indentures and similar
10 instruments); Section 1123(a)(5)(J) (issuance of securities by entities receiving property of the
11 estate in exchange for claims against the Debtors).

i. **The Sale of the Subsidiary Debtors' Assets**

13 20. On June 4, 2010, in the SCI Cases, the Court entered its “Order Establishing
14 Bidding Procedures and Deadlines Relating to Sale Process for Substantially all of the Assets of
15 Station Casinos Inc. and Certain ‘Opcos’ Subsidiaries” (the “Bidding Procedures Order”) (docket
16 no. 1563). Pursuant to the Bidding Procedures Order, the Court, among other things, (a)
17 authorized the SCI Debtors to conduct a process for the marketing and sale of substantially all of
18 the SCI Debtors’ Opcos business and certain related assets (the “New Opcos Acquired Assets,”
19 which, for the avoidance of doubt, includes the New Propco Purchased Assets), conduct an
20 auction and select the successful bid, and (b) deemed the Stalking Horse Bidder to be a qualified
21 bidder. The New Opcos Acquired Assets include substantially all of the assets of the Subsidiary
22 Debtors.

23 21. The SCI Debtors provided notice of the auction and Bidding Procedures to:
24 (a) the Office of the United States Trustee; (b) the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in
25 the SCI Cases (the “SCI Official Creditors Committee”); (c) the Nevada Gaming Commission;
26 (d) all (i) creditors of the SCI Debtors as defined in Section 101(1); (ii) entities known to the SCI
27 Debtors to possess and/or exercise any control over any of the New Opco Acquired Assets;
28 (iii) entities known to the SCI Debtors to assert any rights in any of the New Opco Acquired

1 Assets; (iv) parties in interest and other entities and persons so entitled and known to the SCI
 2 Debtors; (v) parties to the proposed Assumed Contracts (which included parties to all of the
 3 contracts and leases that the Subsidiary Debtors intend to assume and assign); (vi) applicable
 4 federal, state and local tax authorities with jurisdiction over the SCI Debtors or the New Opcos
 5 Acquired Assets, including the Internal Revenue Service; (vii) federal, state and local
 6 environmental authorities in jurisdictions in which the SCI Debtors operate their businesses or in
 7 which the New Opcos Acquired Assets are located; and (viii) any known party which has
 8 expressed a bona fide interest in writing to the SCI Debtors regarding any purchase of the New
 9 Opcos Acquired Assets.

10 22. Pursuant to the “Order, Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 327(a) and 328(a), and Fed. R.
 11 Bankr. P. 2014, Authorizing Employment and Retention of Lazard Freres & Co. LLC (“Lazard”)
 12 as Financial Advisor and Investment Banker for the [SCI] Debtors,” entered on September 18,
 13 2009 (docket no. 326), the Court authorized the SCI Debtors to utilize the services of Lazard to
 14 market for sale the New Opcos Acquired Assets. The marketing of the New Opcos Acquired
 15 Assets took place over a several month period. Notice of the Auction and the Bidding
 16 Procedures Order was published in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, the Wall St. Journal, and the
 17 Financial Times. Lazard contacted seventy nine potential bidders, and received expressions of
 18 interest from thirty nine potential bidders; and twenty six potential bidders signed confidentiality
 19 agreements and received a package of preliminary due diligence information. Of those initial
 20 twenty six parties conducting due diligence, eight signed Letters of Intent that entitled them to
 21 additional, more comprehensive due diligence. See “Status Report of Dr. James E. Nave,
 22 Independent Director, Regarding Compliance with Auction Procedures and Resulting Bids with
 23 Respect to the Order Establishing Bidding Procedures and Deadlines Relating to Sale Process for
 24 Substantially All of the Assets of Station Casinos, Inc. and Certain ‘Opcos’ Subsidiaries,” filed
 25 August 5, 2010 (docket no. 1885) (the “Nave Report”), at ¶¶ 3-6. Dr. Nave was the independent
 26 director of SCI tasked with overseeing the Sale Process.

27

28

1 23. The SCI Debtors, under the direction of Dr. Nave and in consultation with the
 2 Consultation Parties,⁸ determined that six of the Letters of Intent signatories satisfied the
 3 requirements to be Qualified Bidders (not including the Stalking Horse Bidder). However, by
 4 the July 30, 2010 deadline under the Bidding Procedures for receipt of Qualified Bids, the
 5 Debtors had received only one Qualified Bid, that of the Stalking Horse Bidder. As a result,
 6 there was no auction. Nave Report at ¶¶ 7-10.

7 24. Daniel Aronson, a Managing Director at Lazard, filed a Declaration in support of
 8 the Nave Report (docket no. 1886) (the “Aronson Sale Process Report”). Aronson has worked as
 9 restructuring professional for twenty two years, and has headed up Lazard’s efforts as financial
 10 advisor and investment banker for the SCI Debtors. In addition to confirming the facts in the
 11 Nave Report, Aronson noted that the process of the selection of the Stalking Horse Bid resulted
 12 in an increase of more than \$135 million in the proposed purchase price. Aronson Sale Process
 13 Report at ¶ 9.

14 25. Aronson reported that Lazard’s efforts were especially focused on ensuring a
 15 level playing field for all bidders, including in particular potential bidder Boyd Gaming. He
 16 opined that the Bidding Procedures approved by the Court provided an open and level playing
 17 field for all potential bidders, and the Sale Process provided fair and open access to all
 18 reasonable due diligence materials. Aronson noted that, following Court approval of the Bidding
 19 Procedures, no bidder voiced any complaint about the Bidding Procedures, or requested that the
 20 Debtors deviate from or modify the Bidding Procedures. He concluded that the Stalking Horse
 21 Bid was the highest and best bid for the New Opco Acquired Assets. Aronson Sale Process
 22 Report at ¶¶ 15-19.

23 26. At a hearing on August 6, 2010, the date the auction had been scheduled for, the
 24 SCI Debtors reported that the Stalking Horse Bid was the prevailing bid, and that the purchaser
 25 would be the Stalking Horse Bidder FG Opco Acquisition LLC (the “New Opco Purchaser”), an
 26 entity that is a subsidiary of New Propco (New Opco Purchaser and the other New Propco

27 8 The Consultation Parties were the Administrative Agent under the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement,
 28 the steering committee of lenders under the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement, and the SCI Official
 Creditors Committee. See Aronson Sale Process Report, *infra*, at p.4, fn. 2.

1 subsidiaries receiving the New Opco Acquired Assets, collectively, “New Opco”). On August 9,
 2 2010, the Court entered its “Order Closing Auction and Designating Successful Bid With
 3 Respect to Order Establishing Bidding Procedures and Deadlines Related to Sale Process For
 4 Substantially All of the Assets of Station Casinos, Inc. and Certain ‘Opco’ Subsidiaries” (docket
 5 no. 1909), in which it designated New Opco Purchaser as the Successful Bidder.

6 27. The transfer of the New Opco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets and New Propco
 7 Acquired Assets pursuant to the terms of the New Opco Purchase Agreement was approved in
 8 the Court’s order approving the SCI Plan. The Subsidiary Debtors are parties to the New Opco
 9 Purchase Agreement. Pursuant to the Plan, on the Subsidiary Debtors Effective Date, the
 10 Subsidiary Debtors will assume the New Opco Purchase Agreement and effect the transfer of
 11 their assets to the applicable Transferee Parties, free and clear of all Liens, Claims, Equity
 12 Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts⁹ or other interests, and New Opco Purchaser will
 13 pay the consideration as required under the New Opco Purchase Agreement.

14 28. Article V.B. of the Plan contains the principal means for the implementation of
 15 the Plan and Restructuring Transactions with respect to the Subsidiary Debtors. Those
 16 provisions include, among other things (all as more particularly described in, and subject to the
 17 terms of, the Plan):

- 18 (a) the assumption of the New Opco Purchase Agreement by the Subsidiary Debtors;
- 19 (b) the formation of the New Opco and New Propco entities;
- 20 (c) the transfer of the Master Lease Collateral to Propco;
- 21 (d) the transfer of the Landco Assets to the designee of the Land Loan Lenders;
- 22 (e) the transfer of the New Propco Transferred Assets from Propco to the New Propco
 23 entities;
- 24 (f) the transfer of the New Propco Purchased Assets from the Opco entities to the New
 25 Propco entities;

27 ⁹ As used herein and in the Confirmation Order, “Other Debts” means Liens, Claims, Equity Interests,
 28 encumbrances charges or other interests, whether presently known or unknown, in any way relating to or
 arising from: (a) the operations of the Debtors prior to the Effective Date; or (b) consummation of the
 Plan, the Restructuring Transactions or any other transactions consummated in accordance with the Plan.

- 1 (g) the transfer of the New Opco Acquired Assets to New Opco Purchaser;
- 2 (h) the New Propco Transactions in connection with Receipt of New Propco Acquired
- 3 Assets, including the New Propco Implementation Agreements;
- 4 (h) the employment of Subsidiary Debtors' employees by New Propco and the general
- 5 terms thereof;
- 6 (i) the New Opco Transactions in connection with receipt of the New Opco Acquired
- 7 Assets;
- 8 (j) the effectiveness of the New Opco Credit Agreement;
- 9 (k) certain modifications to the Second Amended and Restated Master Lease; and
- 10 Compromise Agreement (2nd Revised).

11 29. NP IP Holdings LLC (IP Holdco) is an affiliate of New Opco Purchaser that will
 12 own certain of the intellectual property necessary for the operation of the businesses of New
 13 Opco and New Propco, and which will license certain of such intellectual property to the
 14 affiliates operating those businesses. Pursuant to the agreement of the parties contemplated to
 15 become members of IP Holdco, and as part and parcel of the Restructuring Transactions, the
 16 Confirmation Order shall specifically affirm certain of the provisions of the Amended and
 17 Restated Operating Agreement for IP Holdco without diminishing the effectiveness or
 18 enforceability of any other provisions thereof.

19 **(ii) The Restructuring of Aliante Gaming**

20 30. Starting in May 2010, Aliante Gaming undertook a thorough canvassing of the
 21 market and solicited bids from both (i) potential purchasers of substantially all of Aliante
 22 Gaming's assets and (ii) parties to replace SCI as manager of Aliante Gaming's business should
 23 the restructuring proceed on a "standalone" basis (whereby the lenders would exchange their
 24 outstanding Claims for equity and select managers of the process). The Aliante Transaction
 25 Committee oversaw the marketing process with support from its advisors and analyzed all bids.
 26 Throughout May and June 2010, Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., financial advisor and investment
 27 banker to Aliante Gaming, contacted over 70 parties with a potential interest in owning or
 28 managing Aliante Gaming's assets. Twenty-five of those parties entered into confidentiality

1 agreements and received the first-round bid package, which consisted of a confidential
 2 information memorandum and other materials, as well as access to an on-line due diligence data
 3 room. From this group, 13 parties submitted preliminary letters of interest (“LOIs”) for the
 4 acquisition or management of Aliante Gaming’s assets, including five acquisition and 12
 5 management proposals.

6 31. Each of the five acquisition LOIs reflected an offer far below the outstanding
 7 amount of the Lenders’ secured debt. In addition, all of the bids contained a portion of take-back
 8 financing, which certain of the Lenders advised was unacceptable. In light of the proposals,
 9 certain significant Lenders informed the advisors to the Aliante Transaction Committee that they
 10 no longer supported the sale process. Thereafter, the Aliante Debtors ceased their marketing
 11 efforts and instead proceeded with negotiating a standalone plan whereby the Aliante Lenders
 12 would assume ownership of Aliante Gaming’s assets.

13 32. The Aliante Debtors then engaged in negotiations with the Aliante Lenders
 14 regarding a restructuring transaction whereby the Aliante Lenders would acquire the assets
 15 and/or equity of Aliante Gaming on account of their senior secured indebtedness. During this
 16 time, the Aliante Lenders also engaged in negotiations with Fertitta Entertainment regarding the
 17 terms pursuant to which an affiliate of Fertitta Entertainment would manage Aliante Gaming on
 18 an interim or transitional basis. These negotiations culminated in an agreement to enter into a
 19 series of restructuring transactions pursuant to which the Aliante Lenders would receive new
 20 equity and new debt of Reorganized Aliante Gaming, with management services to be provided
 21 by Fertitta Entertainment, all of which is described in more detail in the Plan and Disclosure
 22 Statement.

23 33. Article V.C. of the Plan contains the principal means for the implementation of
 24 the Plan with respect to the Aliante Debtors. Those provisions include, among other things, that
 25 prior to or on the Effective Date, as applicable:

26 (a) ALST Casino Holdco will be formed. The ALST Casino Holdco
 27 Operating Agreement will be adopted, and will, among other things, (i) establish the terms and
 28 rights of the ALST Casino Holdco Equity, (ii) establish certain restrictions on the transfer of

1 ALST Casino Holdco Equity, (iii) provide for certain rights and obligations of holders of ALST
 2 Casino Holdco Equity, (iv) provide for the preparation and filing with any state or federal
 3 regulatory authority (or withdrawal of) any documents that the Required Aliante Consenting
 4 Lenders deem necessary or appropriate in connection with establishing ALST Casino Holdco as
 5 a “publicly traded company” within the meaning of the Nevada Revised Statutes, including,
 6 without limitation, any Form 10-K, Form 10-Q, Form 8-K, and other documents or amendments
 7 thereto to comply with the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and (v)
 8 include such other provisions as may be necessary or appropriate to establish ALST Casino
 9 Holdco as a “publicly traded company” under Section 463.487 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

10 (b) The Registration Rights Agreement will be entered into.

11 (c) ALST Casino Holdco will authorize and issue ALST Casino Holdco
 12 Equity for distribution to the Holders of Allowed Class AGL.1 Claims (or their respective
 13 designee(s)). Each Holder of an Allowed Class AGL.1 Claim (or its designee) will receive its
 14 *Pro Rata* share of 100% of the ALST Casino Holdco Equity.

15 (d) Reorganized Aliante Gaming will enter into the Amended Aliante Gaming
 16 Operating Agreement, which will amend the Aliante Operating Agreement to, among other
 17 things, establish Reorganized Aliante Gaming as a single member limited liability company and
 18 identify ALST Casino Holdco as its sole member.

19 (e) Reorganized Aliante Gaming will authorize and issue the New Aliante
 20 Equity for distribution in accordance with the Plan.

21 (f) The following transactions will be deemed to have occurred in the
 22 following order: (i) each Holder of an Allowed Class AGL.1 Claim shall be deemed to have
 23 exchanged all of its Allowed Class AGL.1 Claim for its *Pro Rata* share of New Aliante Equity
 24 and New Secured Aliante Debt; and (ii) each Holder of New Aliante Equity shall be deemed to
 25 have contributed all such New Aliante Equity to ALST Casino Holdco in exchange for its *Pro*
 26 *Rata* share of ALST Casino Holdco Equity.

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28

1 (g) All of the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets shall be conveyed, assigned,
 2 transferred and delivered to Reorganized Aliante Gaming in accordance with a transfer
 3 agreement to be negotiated and agreed to by and among the relevant parties.

4 (h) All property of Aliante Gaming and all of the Transferred Aliante Hotel
 5 Assets shall vest in Reorganized Aliante Gaming free and clear of all Liens, Claims, charges,
 6 encumbrances, or other interests, except as provided in the Plan.

7 (i) Fertitta Entertainment and Reorganized Aliante will enter into the New
 8 Aliante Management Agreement.

9 (j) As more fully described in the Plan, the Debtors or SCI Debtors that either
 10 provide goods and services to Aliante Gaming or are party to contracts with third party vendors
 11 for the provision of goods and services to Aliante Gaming, will use (and will cause their
 12 respective Affiliates and Subsidiaries to use) commercially reasonable efforts, subject to the
 13 terms and conditions described in the Plan, to ensure that such goods and services continue to be
 14 available to Reorganized Aliante Gaming, either from the same source and on the same terms as
 15 made available pre-petition, or by assisting in negotiating new agreements with third party
 16 vendors.

17 (k) Prepetition instruments evidencing Claims and Equity Interests against the
 18 Aliante Debtors will be cancelled.

19 (l) Aliante Holding, LLC (“Aliante Holding”) and Aliante Station, LLC
 20 (“Aliante Station”) will be dissolved, provided that in no event will Aliante Holding, LLC be
 21 wound down or dissolved before the Effective Date with respect to Aliante Gaming, LLC.

22 34. The Debtors have articulated good and sufficient legal and business reasons that
 23 justify approving the Restructuring Transactions. Such reasons include that the New OpcO
 24 Purchase Agreement (a) constitutes the highest and best offer for the Subsidiary Debtors’ assets,
 25 (b) presents the best opportunity to realize the value of the Subsidiary Debtors’ assets, and
 26 (c) will allow the Subsidiary Debtors to avoid the possible decline and devaluation of such assets
 27 in a protracted chapter 11 process.

1 35. With respect to Aliante Holding, the Plan provides that Holders of General
 2 Unsecured Claims will not receive any distribution on account of their Claims and that Holders
 3 of Equity Interests will receive the Aliante Holdings Assets. The two Holders of Equity Interests
 4 of Aliante Holdings (one of which is Aliante Station, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SCI), were
 5 deemed to accept the Plan pursuant to the Joint Unanimous Written Consent of the Executive
 6 Committee, the Member and the Manager of Aliante Gaming dated March 21, 2011. Aliante
 7 Holdings owns Losee Elkhorn Properties, LLC, which owns approximately 60 acres of real
 8 property. The Plan contemplates that the Holders of Equity Interests in Aliante Holdings will
 9 receive the ownership of Losee Elkhorn Properties, LLC. The Aliante Lenders do not have an
 10 interest in Losee Elkhorn Properties, LLC, and the Debtors do not believe that there are any
 11 General Unsecured Claims against Aliante Holding.

12 36. The Debtors' entry into the New Opcos Purchase Agreement and consummation of
 13 the Restructuring Transactions with respect to the Subsidiary Debtors constitute the Debtors'
 14 exercise of sound business judgment. The sales and related Restructuring Transactions
 15 contemplated by the New Opcos Purchase Agreement are in the best interests of the Debtors, their
 16 estates and creditors and all other parties in interest, and they are supported by each of the
 17 applicable Debtors' key creditor constituencies.

18 37. The total consideration provided by the New Opcos Purchaser for the purchased
 19 assets is the highest and best offer received by the Debtors, the consideration is a fair and
 20 reasonable price for the purchased assets and constitutes (a) reasonably equivalent value under
 21 the Bankruptcy Code and Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act, (b) fair consideration under the
 22 Uniform Fraudulent Conveyance Act, and (c) reasonably equivalent value, fair consideration and
 23 fair value under any other applicable laws of the United States, any state, territory or possession,
 24 or the District of Columbia ((a), (b) and (c), individually and collectively, "Value").

25 38. New Opcos Purchaser would not have entered into the New Opcos Purchase
 26 Agreement and would not consummate the Restructuring Transactions, thus adversely affecting
 27 the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors, if: (a) the transfer of the purchased assets to New
 28 Opcos Purchaser, including without limitation the Assumed Contracts, were not being transferred

1 free and clear of all Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other
 2 interests; (b) New Opco Purchaser or any of its Related Persons would, or in the future could, be
 3 liable for any such Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other
 4 interests; or (c) New Opco Purchaser or any of its Related Persons would otherwise be subject to
 5 any liability with respect to the operation of the Debtors' businesses on or prior to the Effective
 6 Date. Accordingly, a sale other than one free and clear of all Liens, Claims, Equity Interests,
 7 encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests would impact materially and adversely the
 8 Debtors' estates, and would yield substantially less value for the Debtors' estates, with less
 9 certainty than the sale pursuant to the New Opco Purchase Agreement. In reaching this
 10 determination, the Court has taken into account both the consideration to be realized directly by
 11 the Debtors and their creditors, and the indirect benefits of the Restructuring Transactions for the
 12 Debtors' employees, the Debtors' vendors and suppliers and the public interest served, directly
 13 and indirectly, by the preservation of the value of the New Opco Acquired Assets resulting from
 14 the transfer of such assets to the applicable Transferee Parties.

15 39. There was no evidence of insider influence or improper conduct by any of the
 16 Transferee Parties or their Related Persons, or by any other party in interest, in connection with
 17 the negotiation of the New Opco Purchase Agreement with the Subsidiary Debtors, in connection
 18 with the marketing of the assets, or otherwise in connection with the sale processes. The
 19 Subsidiary Debtors established due diligence rooms in which the information provided to the
 20 successful purchasers was also provided to other potential bidders. There was also no evidence
 21 of fraud or collusion among the successful purchaser, its Related Persons and any other bidders
 22 for the Subsidiary Debtors' assets, or collusion between the Debtors and the successful purchaser
 23 or their respective Related Persons to the detriment of any other bidders, the sale process or the
 24 Debtors' estates.

25 40. The Subsidiary Debtors are entering into the New Opco Purchase Agreement and
 26 performing their obligations thereunder and under the other Restructuring Transactions in good
 27 faith and with lawful purpose, and have the legal power and authority to convey all of their right,
 28 title and interest in and to the New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets and

1 Landco Assets to the applicable Transferee Parties. Each applicable Debtor has: (i) full power
 2 and authority to execute the New Opco Purchase Agreement, as amended, and the New Opco
 3 Credit Agreement, and all other documents contemplated thereby, and the sales, and incurrence
 4 of debt under the New Opco Credit Agreement, have been duly and validly authorized by all
 5 necessary company action of each Debtor as applicable; (ii) the necessary power and authority to
 6 perform its obligations under the Restructuring Transactions contemplated by the Plan; and (iii)
 7 taken all company action necessary to authorize, approve and enter into the New Opco Purchase
 8 Agreement and the New Opco Credit Agreement and consummate the Restructuring
 9 Transactions contemplated by the Plan. No consents or approvals or further actions, other than
 10 those expressly required by the terms of the New Opco Purchase Agreement or in the Schedules
 11 thereto (including the Nevada Gaming Commission consent), are required for the Debtors to
 12 close the sales and consummate the Restructuring Transactions.

13 41. No brokers were involved in consummating the sale or the Restructuring
 14 Transactions, and no brokers' commissions are due to any person or entity in connection with the
 15 sale or the Restructuring Transactions.

16 42. Like the Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Gaming tested the marketplace for buyers,
 17 but was unable to locate a buyer on terms acceptable to the Aliante Lenders. Aliante Gaming
 18 and the Aliante Lenders then negotiated the terms of a consensual chapter 11 reorganization,
 19 under which the Aliante Lenders will become the owners of Reorganized Aliante Gaming, and
 20 the General Unsecured Creditors of Aliante Gaming will be paid in full or their Claims will be
 21 Unimpaired. That restructuring has the support of the former equity owners of Aliante Gaming,
 22 and effectuates a considerable deleveraging of Aliante Gaming, which bodes well for its long
 23 term economic and financial viability.

24 c. **Section 1123(a)(6) – Prohibition Against the
 25 Issuance of Nonvoting Equity Securities and Adequate
 Provisions for Voting Power of Classes of Securities.**

26 43. The Subsidiary Debtors are not issuing equity securities, and the purchaser of
 27 their assets is not a corporation. ALST Casino Holdco will authorize, issue, and distribute the
 28 ALST Casino Holdco and Reorganized Aliante Gaming will authorize and issue the New Aliante

1 Equity, but neither ALST Casino Holdco nor Reorganized Aliante Gaming are a corporation.
 2 Thus, the Plan complies with the requirements of Section 1123(a)(6).

3 **d. Section 1123(a)(7) – Selection of Directors and
 Officers in a Manner Consistent with the Interests of
 Creditors and Equity Security Holders and Public Policy.**

4 44. The Plan complies with the requirements of Section 1123(a)(7) because, under the
 5 Plan, on, or as soon as practical after, the Effective Date, all boards of directors of the Debtors
 6 will be dissolved and all officers will be dismissed. In their place, with the exception of Aliante
 7 Gaming, Richard J. Haskins and Thomas M. Friel will be appointed, through the Confirmation
 8 Order, as the Plan Administrators. With respect to Aliante Gaming, pursuant to the Plan,
 9 Reorganized Aliante Gaming will be a single member limited liability company with ALST
 10 Casino Holdco as its sole member. The holders of the Aliante Lenders' Allowed Claims will
 11 own all of the equity interests in ALST Casino Holdco and will have the ability to select the
 12 officers and directors of ALST Casino Holdco, subject to any applicable Nevada state gaming
 13 suitability regulations and requirements. As part of a Plan Supplement, Aliante Gaming filed a
 14 list of proposed officers and directors for ALST Casino Holdco. As a result, the Plan contains no
 15 provisions with respect to the manner of selection of new officers and directors that is
 16 inconsistent with public policy or the interests of Holders of Claim and Equity Interests.

17 **e. Section 1123(b)(1)-(2) – Impairment of Claims and Equity
 Interests and Assumption, Assumption and Assignment or
 Rejection of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases.**

18 45. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1123(b)(1), Article III of the Plan
 19 impairs or leaves unimpaired, as the case may be, each Class of Claims and Equity Interests.
 20 Consistent with 1123(b)(2), Article VI of the Plan provides for the assumption by the Debtors
 21 and assignment to the applicable Transferee Parties on the Effective Date of certain designated
 22 Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, the assumption of certain other Executory Contracts,
 23 and the rejection of all other Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases, in all cases in
 24 accordance with, and subject to, the provisions and requirements of Sections 365 and 1123.
 25 Accordingly, the Plan satisfies the requirements of Sections 1123(b)(1) and (b)(2).

26
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 28

f. Section 1123(b)(3) – Retention, Enforcement and Settlement of Claims Held by the Debtors.

46. As authorized by Section 1123(b)(3), (i) Article X.E. of the Plan provides for the retention by the Debtors or Estate representatives of Causes of Action and Litigation Claims not expressly released or settled under the Plan, and (ii) Articles X.B. and X.C. of the Plan provide for certain settlements and releases.

g. Section 1123(b)(4) – Sale of Assets of the Estate.

47. Consistent with Section 1123(b)(4), the Plan provides for the sale of substantially all of the Subsidiary Debtors' assets to New OpcO Purchaser, and the distribution of the proceeds of the sale to the respective Debtors' creditors in the order of priority of their Claims.

h. Section 1123(b)(5) – Modification of the Rights of Holders of Claims.

48. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1123(b)(5), Article III of the Plan modifies, or leaves unaffected, as the case may be, the rights of holders of each Class of Claims. Some Classes of Claims receive payment in full in cash and/or are Unimpaired. Some Classes of Claims receive cash, others receive cash and secured notes, and others receive equity securities and new secured notes.

i. Section 1123(b)(6) – Other Provisions Not Inconsistent with Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

49. The Plan includes additional appropriate implementation provisions that are not inconsistent with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including: (i) the provisions of Article VII of the Plan governing distributions on account of Allowed Claims; (ii) the provisions of Article VIII of the Plan establishing procedures for resolving Disputed Claims and making distributions on account of such Disputed Claims once resolved; (iii) the provisions of Article X of the Plan regarding the treatment of the provisions of the Plan as a Comprehensive Settlement (as hereinafter defined), releases by the Debtors, voluntary releases by Holders of Claims and Equity Interests, and certain exculpation provisions.

j. Section 1123(d) – Cure of Defaults.

50. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1123(d), Article VI of the Plan provides for the cure of defaults in respect of all executory contracts and unexpired leases that are being assumed under the Plan and assigned to the applicable Transferee Parties, and requires that such cure payments be made consistent with the requirements of Section 365(b) and 365(c).

2. Section 1129(a)(2) – Compliance with Applicable Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

51. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(2), the Debtors have complied with all applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including Section 1125 and 1126 and Bankruptcy Rules 3016, 3017 and 3018. Adequate disclosures of the prepetition financial condition of the Debtors and of the terms and purposes of the Restructuring Transactions were made during the course of the SCI Cases, the extensive prepetition marketing of the assets of the respective Debtors, and the Prepetition Solicitation. The Disclosure Statement contained a detailed description of (a) the business of the Debtors and the terms and purposes of the Restructuring Transactions contemplated under the Plan for the Subsidiary Debtors and Aliante Debtors, (b) the classification and treatment of Claims against and Equity Interests in each of the Debtors under the Plan, and (c) the other principal provisions of the Plan. The Disclosure Statement also discusses certain securities laws, gaming regulations and federal income tax considerations that may be applicable to the transactions contemplated under the Plan and the decisions of Holders of Claims whether to vote to accept or reject the Plan. Accordingly, the Disclosure Statement distributed in connection with the Prepetition Solicitation contained adequate information as defined in Section 1125(a), and the other materials that were included in the Solicitation Package provided members of the Voting Classes with substantial additional material information.

52. The twenty one day period for voting provided to the members of the Voting Classes for voting on the Plan complied with the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 3018(b) that the solicitation period not be unreasonably short. The four days solicitation of consents from the Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders with respect to including TSI as a Subsidiary Debtor was also

1 not unreasonably short under the circumstances. The Disclosure Statement was filed with the
 2 Court on the Petition Date in compliance with Bankruptcy Rule 3016(b). The Solicitation
 3 Packages complied with the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 3017 regarding the contents of
 4 Solicitation Packages, and the Solicitation Procedures by which the Ballots for acceptance or
 5 rejection of the Plan, and for consents for the TSI related Plan Modifications, were solicited and
 6 tabulated were fair and properly conducted, all in accordance with the requirements of Sections
 7 1125 and 1126, and Bankruptcy Rules 3016, 3017 and 3018. The Debtors and the other
 8 Exculpated Parties have acted in good faith within the meaning of Section 1125(e) and are
 9 entitled to the benefits thereof.

10 **3. Section 1129(a)(3) – Proposal of the Plan in Good Faith.**

11 53. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(3), the Debtors proposed
 12 the Plan in good faith and not by any means forbidden by law. In determining that the Plan has
 13 been proposed in good faith, the Court has examined the totality of the circumstances
 14 surrounding the formulation of the Plan, including the support thereof by the Prepetition Opco
 15 Secured Lenders, Mortgage Lenders and the Aliante Lenders. Based on the record of the
 16 Chapter 11 Cases and the evidence presented at the Confirmation Hearing, the Court finds and
 17 concludes that the Plan has been proposed with the legitimate and honest purpose of maximizing
 18 the returns available to creditors of the Debtors through the marketing and sale of the Subsidiary
 19 Debtors' assets for the highest and best price, and the marketing of the Aliante Debtors assets
 20 leading to the debt for equity swap that forms the basis of the New Aliante Transaction
 21 Agreements. Moreover, the Plan itself, the arms' length negotiations among the Debtors, the
 22 Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders, Mortgage Lenders, Aliante Lenders, New Opco Purchaser
 23 and New Propco leading to the Plan's formulation, and the concerted efforts of the Debtors and
 24 the new owners of the Debtors' assets to accommodate the liquidity needs of the Debtors'
 25 numerous trade creditors during extremely difficult economic times in Nevada provide
 26 independent evidence of the Debtors' good faith in proposing the Plan.

27 54. There is express statutory authority, and ample precedent in numerous confirmed
 28 chapter 11 plans for the implementation of the principal Restructuring Transactions under the

1 Plan: Section 1123(a)(5)(D) expressly authorizes a chapter 11 plan to provide for the sale of
 2 some or all of property of the estate (Subsidiary Debtors); and Section 1123(a)(5)(J) authorizes a
 3 chapter 11 plan to issue securities of a debtor in exchange for claims (Aliante Gaming). Thus,
 4 the Plan falls well within the four corners of settled chapter 11 practice, and, if confirmed,
 5 achieves a result consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Bankruptcy Code.

6

7 **4. Section 1129(a)(4) – Bankruptcy Court**
Approval of Certain Payments as Reasonable.

8 55. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(4), Article II.A.2. of the
 9 Plan makes all payments on account of Professional Fee Claims for services rendered on or prior
 10 to the Effective Date subject to the requirements of Sections 327, 328, 330, 331, 503(b) and
 11 1103, as applicable, by requiring Professionals to file final fee applications with the Court. The
 12 Court will review the reasonableness of such applications under Sections 328 and 330 and any
 13 applicable case law. Article XI. of the Plan provides that the Court will retain jurisdiction after
 14 the Effective Date to hear and determine all applications for allowance of compensation or
 15 reimbursement of expenses authorized pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code or the Plan.

16

17 **5. Section 1129(a)(5) – Disclosure of Post-Effective Date**
Management of Debtors and Compensation of any Insiders.

18 56. The Plan complies with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(5) because, pursuant
 19 to the Plan, the Debtors have proposed and disclosed that Richard J. Haskins and Thomas M.
 20 Friel will serve as the Plan Administrators, subject to Court approval, which approval is granted
 21 in the Confirmation Order. None of the non-debtor entities receiving estate assets from the
 22 Subsidiary Debtors under the Plan and Restructuring Transactions is a successor to any Debtor or
 23 an affiliate of any Debtor participating in a joint plan with the Debtors, therefore Section
 24 1129(a)(5) does not apply to the Transferee Parties. The Aliante Restructuring Transactions
 25 comply with Section 1129(a)(5) because the Plan discloses that Reorganized Aliante Gaming and
 26 Fertitta Entertainment will enter into the New Aliante Management Agreement, which will be
 27 substantially in the form filed with the Plan Supplement, and, as part of a Plan Supplement,
 28 Aliante Gaming filed a list of proposed officers and directors for ALST Casino Holdco.

1 **6. Section 1129(a)(6) – Approval of Rate Changes.**

2 57. The Debtors' current businesses do not involve the establishment of rates over
 3 which any regulatory commission has jurisdiction. Accordingly, Section 1129(a)(6) does not
 4 apply to the Plan.

5 **7. Section 1129(a)(7) – Best Interests of Holders of Claims and Equity**
 6 **Interests.**

7 58. Section 1129(a)(7) requires that the Debtors show that, with respect to each
 8 impaired Class of Claims or Equity Interests, each holder of a Claim or Equity Interest in such
 9 impaired Class has either (a) accepted or is deemed to have accepted the Plan or, (b) as
 10 demonstrated by the Liquidation Analyses included as Exhibits to the Disclosure Statement, will
 11 receive or retain under the Plan on account of such Claim or Equity Interest property of a value,
 12 as of the Effective Date, that is not less than the amount such holder would receive or retain if
 13 the Debtors were liquidated on the Effective Date under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. Even
 14 though no Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest in an impaired Class objected to confirmation of
 15 the Plan on the basis that it was not receiving or retaining under the Plan as much as it would
 16 receive in a chapter 7 liquidation of the Debtors, the Debtors have nevertheless submitted
 17 substantial evidence to show that the Plan complies with Section 1129(a)(7) with respect any
 18 such hypothetical objecting Holder.

19 **(a) Secured Creditors**

20 59. The Liquidation Analysis distributed with the SCI Plan showed that a liquidation
 21 of the assets of the Subsidiary Debtors would not be sufficient to satisfy the senior secured
 22 claims of the Prepetition Opcos Secured Lenders in the approximate allowed amount of at least
 23 \$882 million, as evidenced by the fact that the purchase price for the Subsidiary Debtors' assets
 24 under the New Opcos Purchase Agreement (\$772 million in cash and secured notes), achieved
 25 after a very substantial marketing effort, is approximately \$110 million less than the Prepetition
 26 Opcos Secured Lenders Allowed Claim. Thus the Liquidation Analysis adequately shows that if
 27 the assets of the Subsidiary Debtors were liquidated in a hypothetical chapter 7 case, and even if
 28 they were liquidated as going concerns, the net proceeds of the sale could only be less than what

1 is being achieved under the Plan because, in a chapter 7 liquidation, one would have to factor in
2 the substantial costs associated with: (i) the delay that would be incurred in connection with the
3 appointment of a chapter 7 trustee and the time required for the trustee and his or her
4 professionals to fully understand the Debtors' situations; (ii) the fees payable to a chapter 7
5 trustee and newly appointed estate professionals; and (iii) the likely discounts that would be
6 realized in one or more chapter 7 auctions of the applicable assets. Therefore, the secured
7 creditors of the Subsidiary Debtors are receiving under the Plan at least as much as they would
8 under an hypothetical chapter 7 liquidation proceeding.

9 60. The Plan also satisfies the requirements of Section 1129(a)(7) with respect to the
10 secured creditors of the Aliante Debtors. The Aliante Liquidation Analysis shows that the net
11 proceeds of the liquidation of Aliante Gaming would be in the range of \$47 to \$53 million. The
12 Aliante Lenders Allowed Claims, which are secured by substantially all of the assets of Aliante
13 Gaming, exceed \$377 million. Under the Plan, Reorganized Aliante Gaming will issue 100% of
14 the equity in Reorganized Aliante Gaming and 100% of the New Secured Aliante Debt to the
15 Aliante Lenders in full satisfaction of the claims of the Aliante Lenders against the Aliante
16 Debtors. The Aliante Lenders are receiving the full value of their collateral by receiving under
17 the Plan all of the equity and new secured debt of Reorganized Aliante Gaming. They could not
18 do better in a liquidation, as is evidence by the liquidation value reached in the Liquidation
19 Analysis.

(b) Unsecured Creditors

21 61. Under the Plan, Holders of General Unsecured Claims against the Subsidiary
22 Debtors and Aliante Gaming are either receiving payment in full or their Claims will be
23 Unimpaired. In a liquidation scenario they would receive nothing, based upon the Liquidation
24 Analyses discussed above. Nevertheless, because the best interests of creditors test applies to
25 impaired classes of claims only, the Debtors are not required to demonstrate that the Plan meets
26 the test with respect to the classes of General Unsecured Claims against the Subsidiary Debtors
27 and Aliante Gaming. With respect to Aliante Holding, the Plan provides that Holders of Equity
28 Interests will receive certain property while Holders of General Unsecured Claims will receive

no distribution. However, there are no Claims against Aliante Holdings and therefore no Holder of a Claim is receiving less than it would receive in a liquidation scenario.

(c) Equity Interests

62. Holders of Equity Interests in the Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Station and Aliante Gaming are not receiving or retaining any property under the Plan, and they would not receive anything in a liquidation of any of the Debtors, since all of the proceeds of the liquidations would be paid to the creditors. As a result, the Holders of Equity Interests in the Subsidiary Debtors, Aliante Station and Aliante Gaming are receiving under the Plan at least as much as they would receive in a chapter 7 liquidation, and the Plan satisfies the best interests of creditors test as to them as well.

63. Under the Plan, the Holders of Equity Interests in Aliante Holdings will receive the Aliante Holdings Assets. These assets include the rights to Losee Elkhorn Properties, LLC, which Holders of Equity Interests would likely also recover in a liquidation scenario because there are no General Unsecured Claims against Aliante Holding. The Court finds that, under the circumstances described, such Plan provision also complies with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(7).

64. The Court finds that (a) the methodology used by the Debtors and their financial advisors in estimating the liquidation value of the Debtors, as set forth in the Liquidation Analyses, is reasonable, (b) the Liquidation Analyses were prepared in good faith, and (c) the results of the Liquidation Analyses fall well within the four corners of traditional best interests of creditors analysis. The Court further finds that the Plan complies with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(7) with respect to each Holder of Claims or Equity Interest.

8. Section 1129(a)(8) – Acceptance of the Plan by Each Impaired Class.

65. As indicated in the Plan and Disclosure Statement:

(a) the following Classes of Unimpaired Claims and Equity Interests were deemed to have accepted the Plan and were not entitled to vote on the Plan – Classes AD.1, AD.2, BS.2, BS.3(b), CH.1, CH.2(b), CS.2, CS.3(b), CVH.2, CVH.3, DS.1, DS.2, FS.2, FS.3(b), FLA.2, FLA.3(b), GR.2, GR.3(b), GVS.2, GVS.3(b), GVRS.2, GVRS.3(b), IS.1,

1 IS.2, LM.2, LM.3(b), LML.1, LML.2(b), MS.2, MS.3(b), PSHC.2, PSHC.3(b), PE.2,
 2 PE.3(b), RS.2, RS.3(b), SF.2, SF.3(b), SCDD.1, SL.2, SL.3(b), SH.2, SH.3(b), STN.1,
 3 STN.2(b), SS.2, SS.3(b), TS.2, TS.3(b), TCS.1, TCS.2, TA.1, TA.2, TSI.2, TSI.3(b),
 4 VH.1, VH.2, AHL.1, AHL.4, ASL.2, AGL.2 and AGL.3;

5 (b) the following Classes of Impaired Claims and Equity Interests are not
 6 retaining or receiving any property under the Plan, are therefore deemed to have rejected
 7 the Plan, and were not entitled to vote on the Plan – Classes AD.3, AD.4, BS.4, BS.5,
 8 CH.3, CH.4, CS.4, CS.5, CVH.4, CVH.5, DS.3, DS.4, FS.4, FS.5, FLA.4, FLA.5, GR.4,
 9 GR.5, GVS.4, GVS.5, GVRS.4, GVRS.5, IS.3, IS.4, LM.4, LM.5, LML.3, LML.4, MS.4,
 10 MS.5, PSHC.4, PSHC.5, PE.4, PE.5, RS.4, RS.5, SF.4, SF.5, SCDD.2, SCDD.3,
 11 SCDD.4, SL.4, SL.5, SH.4, SH.5, STN.3, STN.4, SS.4, SS.5, TS.4, TS.5, TCS.3, TCS.4,
 12 TA.3, TA.4, TSI.4, TSI.5, VH.3, VH.4, AHL.2, AHL.3, ASL.3(b), ASL.4, ASL.5,
 13 AGL.4 and AGL.5; and

14 (c) the Voting Classes were Classes AGL.1, ASL.1, ASL.3(a), BS.1, BS.3(a),
 15 CH.2(a), CS.1, CS.3(a), CVH.1, FS.1, FS.3(a), FLA.1, FLA.3(a), GR.1, GR.3(a),
 16 GVRS.1, GVRS.3(a), GVS.1, GVS.3(a), LM.1, LM.3(a), LML.2(a), MS.1, MS.3(a),
 17 PSHC.1, PSHC.3(a), PE.1, PE.3(a), RS.1, RS.3(a), SF.1, SF.3(a), SL.1, SL.3(a), SH.1,
 18 SH.3(a), SS.1, SS.3(a), STN.2(a), TS.1, TS.3(a), TSI.1 and TSI.3(a).

19 Based upon the Tabulation of Ballots prepared by the Voting and Claims Agent, all Voting
 20 Classes voted to accept the Plan, and no Classes of Claims voted to reject the Plan.

21 66. The Plan does not comply with the requirement of Section 1129(a)(8) that all
 22 impaired Classes of Claims and Equity Interests vote to accept the Plan because Classes of
 23 Claims and Equity Interests that receive nothing under the Plan are deemed to have rejected the
 24 Plan. Nevertheless, the Plan is confirmable because, as discussed below, the Plan satisfies the
 25 cramdown requirements of Section 1129(b) with respect to all non-accepting Classes.

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1 **9. Section 1129(a)(9) – Treatment of Claims Entitled to**
 2 **Priority Pursuant to Section 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.**

3 67. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(9), the Plan provides that:
 4 (a) with respect to Administrative Claims, on the later of the Effective Date or when an
 5 Administrative Claim becomes an Allowed Administrative Claim, the Allowed Administrative
 6 Claim shall be paid in cash in the full unpaid Allowed Amount of such Claim, unless the Holder
 7 agrees to less favorable treatment; (b) the rights of the Holders of Priority Tax Claims are
 8 unaltered under the Plan -- under Section II.B. of the Plan, Holders of Priority Tax Claims will
 9 receive, at the election of the Debtors, (i) payment in full in cash of the Allowed amount of such
 10 Claim, (ii) less favorable treatment if the Holder agrees, or (iii) installment payments in
 11 accordance with the requirements of Sections 1129(a)(9)(C) and (D); and (c) Holders of Allowed
 12 Other Priority Claims will receive payment in full in cash of the Allowed amount of such Claim.

13 **10. Section 1129(a)(10) – Acceptance by at Least One Impaired Class.**

14 68. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(10), as indicated in the
 15 report of the Voting and Claims Agent and as reflected in the record of the Confirmation
 16 Hearing, at least one Class of Claims or Equity Interests that is Impaired under the Plan voted to
 17 accept the Plan. Indeed, all Voting Classes voted to accept the Plan, in each case determined
 18 without including any acceptance of the Plan by any insider. Those Classes of Claims voting to
 19 accept the are Classes AGL.1, ASL.1, ASL.3(a), BS.1, BS.3(a), CH.2(a), CS.1, CS.3(a), CVH.1,
 20 FS.1, FS.3(a), FLA.1, FLA.3(a), GR.1, GR.3(a), GVRS.1, GVRS.3(a), GVS.1, GVS.3(a), LM.1,
 21 LM.3(a), LML.2(a), MS.1, MS.3(a), PSHC.1, PSHC.3(a), PE.1, PE.3(a), RS.1, RS.3(a), SF.1,
 22 SF.3(a), SL.1, SL.3(a), SH.1, SH.3(a), SS.1, SS.3(a), STN.2(a), TS.1 and TS.3(a).

23 **11. Section 1129(a)(11) – Feasibility of the Plan.**

24 69. The Plan is a liquidating Plan for all of the Debtors except Aliante Gaming. The
 25 record of these Chapter 11 Cases evidences that the parties to the Subsidiary Debtors'
 26 Restructuring Transactions have the financial wherewithal and desire to close on the
 27 Restructuring Transactions. Thus, the liquidating aspect of the Plan is feasible.

1 70. Under the Plan, the Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders will receive secured notes
 2 issued by New Opco. The SCI Debtors previously filed with Court financial projections for New
 3 Opco. The Subsidiary Debtors assert that the assumptions underlying those financial projections
 4 are reasonable, and that New Opco will be able to meet its debt service obligations. Based upon
 5 the New Opco financials and the discussion in the Aronson Declaration with respect thereto, it
 6 appears reasonably likely that New Opco will be able to service its debt obligations issued in
 7 connection with the Plan. No contrary evidence was submitted to the Court.

8 71. As a result of the debt for equity exchange on which the Aliante Gaming
 9 restructuring is based (including the payment in full of the General Unsecured Creditors),
 10 Reorganized Aliante Gaming will have a substantially deleveraged capital structure and is
 11 projected to be able to operate its business and meet its obligations without the need for further
 12 financial reorganization. The financial projections for Reorganized Aliante Gaming project:
 13 (a) increased gross revenues of 4-5% per year through 2014, based upon assumed improvements
 14 in the economic conditions in the Las Vegas local market during that period; and (b) EBITDAM
 15 of \$7.842 million for calendar year 2011, \$9.36 million for calendar year 2012, \$11.541 million
 16 for calendar year 2013 and \$13.872 million for calendar year 2014. Therefore, given the
 17 discharge under the Plan of more than \$440 million of secured and unsecured claims against
 18 Aliante Gaming, it is reasonable to expect that, as the Reorganized Aliante Gaming financial
 19 projections demonstrate, after consummation of the Plan, Reorganized Aliante Gaming will not
 20 require further financial reorganization.

21 72. Accordingly, the Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 1129(a)(11).

22 **12. Section 1129(a)(12) – Payment of Bankruptcy Fees.**

23 73. In accordance with the requirements of Section 1129(a)(12), Article XII.A. of the
 24 Plan provides that Administrative Claims for fees payable pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
 25 § 1930 will be paid in Cash on the Effective Date. After the Effective Date, the Plan
 26 Administrator and Reorganized Aliante Gaming will pay all required fees pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
 27 § 1930 or any other statutory requirement and comply with all statutory reporting requirements.

1 **13. Section 1129(a)(13) – Retiree Benefits.**

2 74. The Debtors (other than Aliante Gaming) are liquidating, and after the Effective
 3 Date will have no obligations regarding any retiree benefits of the kind referred to in Section
 4 1114; therefore, Section 1129(a)(13) does not apply to such Debtors. Aliante Gaming is not a
 5 party to any plan, fund or program that provides “retiree benefits” as such term is used in Section
 6 1114; therefore, Section 1129(a)(13) does not apply to Reorganized Aliante Gaming.

7 **14. Section 1129(a)(14), (15) and (16) Do Not Apply.**

8 75. Sections 1129(a)(14), (15) and (16) address domestic support obligations,
 9 individual debtors, and non-moneyed businesses, and they do not apply to the Debtors.

10 **15. Section 1129(b) – Confirmation of the Plan
 Over the Nonacceptance of Impaired Classes.**

12 76. Section 1129(b) authorizes the Court to confirm the Plan even if not all Impaired
 13 Classes have accepted the Plan (a “cramdown”), provided that such Plan has been accepted by at
 14 least one impaired class and the Plan does not discriminate unfairly and is fair and equitable with
 15 respect to each Impaired Class that voted to reject the Plan. Here, Classes AGL.1, ASL.1,
 16 ASL.3(a), BS.1, BS.3(a), CH.2(a), CS.1, CS.3(a), CVH.1, FS.1, FS.3(a), FLA.1, FLA.3(a),
 17 GR.1, GR.3(a), GVRS.1, GVRS.3(a), GVS.1, GVS.3(a), LM.1, LM.3(a), LML.2(a), MS.1,
 18 MS.3(a), PSHC.1, PSHC.3(a), PE.1, PE.3(a), RS.1, RS.3(a), SF.1, SF.3(a), SL.1, SL.3(a), SH.1,
 19 SH.3(a), SS.1, SS.3(a), STN.2(a), TS.1 and TS.3(a), each an Impaired Class of Claims, voted to
 20 accept the Plan. Thus, the requirement that at least one Impaired Class vote to accept the Plan is
 21 satisfied.

22 77. All classes of secured Claims are either Unimpaired and deemed to have accepted
 23 the Plan, or Impaired but voted to accept the Plan. Therefore, the requirements of Section
 24 1129(b) do not apply to Classes of secured Claims. In any event, the Plan expressly complies
 25 with the requirements of at least one of the subsections of Section 1129(b)(2)(A) with respect to
 26 all Classes of secured Claims.

27 78. The Plan is fair and equitable with respect to all non-accepting Classes of
 28 Unsecured Claims because: (a) each impaired unsecured creditor receives or retains under the

1 Plan property of a value equal to the amount of its allowed Claim; or (b) the holders of any
 2 Claims (or Equity Interests) that are junior to the non-accepting Class will not receive any
 3 property under the Plan (the “absolute priority rule”). The Plan strictly adheres to the absolute
 4 priority rule for each Subsidiary Debtor, Aliante Station and Aliante Gaming, and nowhere does
 5 the Plan provide for distributions to the holders of any Claims or Equity Interests that are junior
 6 to any non-accepting Class of Claims of such Debtors. The Plan permits Holders of Equity
 7 Interests of Aliante Holdings to receive a distribution while Holders of General Unsecured
 8 Claims receive no value; however, there are no Claims against Aliante Holding, and therefore,
 9 that class can be disregarded for cramdown purposes.

10 79. The Plan is fair and equitable with respect to all non-accepting Classes of Equity
 11 Interests because: (a) each holder of an Equity Interest will receive or retain under the Plan
 12 property of a value equal to the greatest of the fixed liquidation preference to which such holder
 13 is entitled, the fixed redemption price to which such holder is entitled, or the value of the
 14 interest; or (b) the holder of an interest that is junior to the Non-Accepting Class will not receive
 15 or retain any property under the Plan.

16 80. The Plan does not discriminate unfairly with respect to any Non-Accepting Class
 17 because the value of the cash and/or securities to be distributed to each Class under the Plan is
 18 equal to, or otherwise fair when compared to, the value of the distributions to other Classes
 19 whose legal rights are the same as those of the non-accepting Class. Exact parity is not required.
 20 The Court finds that any discrepancy in treatment or potential distributions to unsecured
 21 creditors is objectively small and justified based on certain inherent differences in the nature of
 22 their Claims, the time that will be required to liquidate their Claims, and the relative levels of
 23 risk that are being taken by different creditors simply based upon the time it will take to liquidate
 24 their Claims. Accordingly, the Plan may be confirmed under Section 1129(b).

25 **16. Bankruptcy Rule 3016(a).**

26 81. In accordance with the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 3016(a), the Plan is
 27 dated and identifies the entities submitting the Plan.

28

1 **17. Section 1129(d) – Purpose of Plan.**

2 82. No allegation was made during the course of the Chapter 11 Cases that the
 3 primary purpose of the Plan was avoidance of taxes or avoidance of the requirements of Section
 4 5 of the Securities Act, and no objection was filed by any Governmental Unit asserting any such
 5 avoidance. Based upon a review of the record of the Chapter 11 Cases, the Court finds no
 6 evidence of any intent to avoid payment of taxes or the requirements of Section 5 of the
 7 Securities Act. The Plan and Disclosure Statement, which were filed with the Court upon the
 8 commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases, provide adequate notice to all Persons and Entities,
 9 including the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and other
 10 applicable Governmental Units of the intent of the Plan to cause the issuance of securities
 11 exempt from registration requirements under applicable state and federal securities laws, and the
 12 Disclosure Statement provides adequate notice of the federal income tax consequences of the
 13 Plan for the Debtors and certain Holders of Claims and Equity Interests.

14 **C. SETTLEMENTS, RELEASES, EXCULPATIONS AND INJUNCTIONS.**

15 83. The settlement, release and exculpation provisions set forth in Article X of the
 16 Plan are made in exchange for consideration, and are: (a) the result of a carefully-negotiated
 17 good-faith settlement among the Debtors and their major stakeholders; (b) meant to provide
 18 relief from future litigation and the prospect of future litigation that would have substantially
 19 derailed the Debtors' restructuring efforts; (c) fair and necessary for successful Plan
 20 confirmation; and (d) supported by creditors holding billions of dollars in allowed undisputed
 21 secured Claims that will be impaired under the Plan. In connection with the Confirmation
 22 Hearing, no party in interest filed an objection to Article X of the Plan, which also provides for
 23 an injunction in support of the settlements, releases and exculpations contained therein.

24 **1. Article X.B.1. of the Plan – The Comprehensive
 Settlement of Claims and Controversies**

26 84. Article X.B.1. of the Plan provides that the Plan constitutes a general
 27 comprehensive settlement (the "Comprehensive Settlement") of all Claims, Litigation Claims,
 28 Causes of Action and controversies relating to (a) the rights that Holders of Claims or Equity

1 Interests may have with respect to any Claim or Equity Interest against any Debtors, (b) the
 2 distributions, if any, made under the Plan on account of such Claims and Equity Interests, and
 3 (c) any Claims or Causes of Action of any party arising out of or relating to the Going Private
 4 Transaction and the Aliante Prepetition Transactions, and all transactions relating thereto. The
 5 Comprehensive Settlement is a fundamental component of the overall restructuring contained in
 6 the Plan because it assures the Debtors and the Estates that the Plan and the distributions made
 7 thereunder will result in the final settlement and satisfaction of the various Claims against and
 8 Equity Interests in the Debtors. The Comprehensive Settlement promotes the finality of the Plan
 9 and repose. No party in interest objected to the Comprehensive Settlement. The Court finds that
 10 the Comprehensive Settlement is in the best interests of Holders of Claims and Equity Interests
 11 and the Debtors and their respective Estates and property, and is fair and equitable, and any
 12 distributions to be made pursuant to the Plan shall be deemed to have been made on account of
 13 the Comprehensive Settlement and in consideration thereof.

14 2. **Article X.B.2. of the Plan - The Global Settlement**
 15 **of the Going Private Transaction Causes of Action**
 16 **and Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action**

17 85. Article X.B.2 of the Plan implements the Global Settlement, which provides for
 18 the compromise and settlement of: (a) all of the Going Private Transaction Causes of Action
 19 among the Debtors and the SCI Debtors and their respective Estates, and any Person, Entity or
 20 Governmental Unit; and (b) all of the Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action among
 21 the Aliante Debtors and their respective Estates, and any Person, Entity or Governmental Unit.
 22 Pursuant to the Article X.B.2 of the Plan, (x) all distributions made under the Plan are on account
 23 of and in consideration of the Global Settlement, and (y) the Global Settlement is binding on the
 24 Debtors and their Estates and on all Creditors who indicate on their Ballot their agreement to
 25 grant the releases provided for in Article X of the Plan. Article X.C.1., in turn, provides for a
 26 release of the Going Private Transaction Causes of Action and Aliante Prepetition Transactions
 27 Causes of Action by the Releasing Parties, which Releasing Parties includes the Debtors, their
 28 Estates and any Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest that would have been able to assert the

Going Private Transaction Causes of Action or the Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action for or on behalf of the Debtors or their Estates. In connection with the Confirmation Hearing, no party in interest has objected to the Global Settlement.

(a) The Going Private Transaction

5 As defined in the Plan, and discussed in greater detail in the Disclosure Statement
6 distributed with the SCI Plan (which was distributed in the Prepetition Solicitation Package), the
7 Going Private Transaction means the buy-out transaction that occurred in November of 2007,
8 pursuant to which, among other things, SCI was acquired by virtue of a merger of FCP
9 Acquisition Sub with and into SCI, with SCI continuing as the surviving corporation, and the
10 sale-and-leaseback transaction with respect to the Propco Properties was consummated. In
11 March 2009, prior to the commencement of the SCI Cases, SCI's Board of Directors authorized
12 the formation of an independent Special Litigation Committee (the "SLC") to investigate and
13 report to the Board regarding whether SCI had colorable claims that could be brought against
14 lenders, former stockholders or others, in connection with the 2007 Going Private Transaction.
15 The SLC filed its findings with the Court on September 22, 2009 (docket no 353) (the "SLC
16 Report"). The SLC determined that:

- 17 i. The financial projections for the 2007 Going Private Transaction were reasonable
18 when made and were not unduly optimistic or overly aggressive.

19 ii. SCI was not insolvent at the time of the Going Private Transaction and did not
20 become insolvent as a result of the Going Private Transaction.

21 iii. SCI was not left with unreasonably small capital.

22 iv. SCI did not intend or expect to incur debts beyond its ability to pay those debts as
23 they matured.

24 v. No person or entity intended to nor believed the Going Private Transaction would
25 defraud, hinder, or delay a creditor of SCI.

26 vi. The participants in the Going Private Transaction had a good faith belief that the
27 Going Private Transaction would succeed and that SCI would enjoy continued
28 growth.

29 vii. No person or entity engaged in inequitable conduct in connection with the Going
30 Private Transaction.

1 87. On December 18, 2009, the SLC filed its Supplemental SLC Report (docket no.
2 721). In the Supplemental SLC Report, the SLC concluded that the Master Lease¹⁰ was a true
3 lease, not a disguised financing, and that any litigation seeking to recharacterize the Master
4 Lease as disguised secured financing would be unsuccessful and a waste of estate resources.

5 88. On August 27, 2010, the Court entered its order confirming the SCI Plan. In the
6 Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Court found that the settlement and release
7 of the Going Private Causes of Action pursuant to the SCI Plan was fair and equitable and an
8 appropriate provision of the SCI Plan.

(b) The Aliante Prepetition Transactions

10 89. The Aliante Prepetition Transactions refer to the negotiation, formulation, entry,
11 performance and/or lack of performance of, and/or any transactions arising from or pertaining to,
12 the Aliante Credit Agreement, the Aliante Security Agreement, the Aliante Swap Agreement, the
13 Aliante Deed of Trust, Aliante Collateral Assignment, Aliante Trademark Collateral Assignment,
14 Aliante Holdings Pledge Agreement, the formation of Aliante Debtors, the Aliante Operating
15 Agreement, and the actions taken by the Aliante Transaction Committee. No such potential
16 Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action were described in the Disclosure Statement.
17 Nevertheless, the Aliante Debtors determined that it was in the best interests of the chapter 11
18 restructuring of Aliante Gaming that Reorganized Aliante Gaming not be encumbered by any
19 uncertainty regarding these potential Causes of Action and that the Plan should include a
20 compromise, settlement and release of all Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action.

21 90. Based in part, and among other things, upon the reports of the various
22 investigative committees discussed above, it was a reasonable exercise of the Debtors' business

²⁴ ¹⁰ The Master Lease (as discussed in the Disclosure Statement and in numerous pleadings filed with the
²⁵ Court in connection with Court approved amendments to the Master Lease) is between SCI Debtor
²⁶ Propco as landlord and Debtor SCI as tenant, and was entered into at the same time as the Going Private
²⁷ Transaction. Under the Master Lease, SCI leases the real property and improvements associated with
²⁸ Boulder Station Hotel & Casino, Red Rock Casino Resort Spa, Palace Station Hotel & Casino and Sunset
Station Hotel & Casino (collectively, the “Leased Hotels”). The Leased Hotels, in turn, are operated by
SCI and certain of its non-debtor operating subsidiaries. The Master Lease provides for monthly rental
payments from SCI to Propco in amounts that exceed the amounts that Propco requires to meet its
ordinary debt service obligations and any other expenses not covered by SCI under the “triple net”
provisions of the Master Lease.

1 judgment to propose a chapter 11 plan that avoids the years of delay in effectuating a
 2 restructuring that would be caused by launching litigation based upon any of the Going Private
 3 Transaction Causes of Action or Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action. Among
 4 other things, the SLC Report and the Supplemental SLC Report demonstrate that any party
 5 attempting to pursue any of the Causes of Action considered by those committees would face
 6 significant legal and factual obstacles. In addition, it is unclear what benefit, if any, the Estates
 7 would obtain from the pursuit of any such claims. When compared to the benefits received by
 8 the Estates from the consensual restructuring that will be effectuated under the Plan, including
 9 benefits from the contributions of the Released Parties thereto, the likelihood of success in any
 10 litigation regarding the Causes of Action is sufficiently low to justify the release of the Going
 11 Private Transaction Causes of Action and Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action, on
 12 the terms and conditions set forth in the Plan, as being fair and equitable.

13 91. The Court has also considered the fact that litigation regarding the Going Private
 14 Transaction and Aliante Prepetition Transactions would be extremely complex litigation,
 15 extremely costly litigation, and the delay attendant to such litigation could put a serious damper
 16 on the ability of the Debtors to ever obtain the benefits of chapter 11. Thus it is not surprising
 17 that the Debtors' principal creditor constituencies support the Plan and the release of the Going
 18 Private Transaction Causes of Action and Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action.
 19 Based upon their contribution, the SLC and their respective members and agents (including
 20 attorneys and financial advisors) are entitled to be included in the Plan definitions of Released
 21 Parties and Exculpated Parties.

22 **3. Article X.C. of the Plan – Releases Among
 23 Releasing Parties and Released Parties.**

24 92. Article X.C. of the Plan provides for certain releases. The releases are (a) releases
 25 of claims held by the Debtors and their Estates (Article X.C.1.) against the identified released
 26 parties, to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, and (b) voluntary releases of
 27 claims held by Holders of Claims and Equity Interests against the identified released parties, to
 28 the fullest extent permissible under applicable law (Article X.C.2.).

1 93. The Debtors' Release. Article X.C.1. of the Plan provides that, upon the Effective
 2 Date, to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, and subject to certain identified
 3 exceptions, the Debtors, the Debtors' Estates and each of their respective Related Persons fully
 4 releases and discharges each of the following parties and their respective properties and Related
 5 Persons from any and all claims and causes of action, Avoidance Actions and Other Debts
 6 (including, without limitation, the Going Private Transaction Causes of Action and the Aliante
 7 Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action) based upon any act, omission or event that takes
 8 place on or prior to the Effective Date and arises from or is related to the Debtors, the
 9 Reorganized Debtors or their respective assets, property, Estates, the Chapter 11 Cases, the
 10 Disclosure Statement, the Plan or the solicitation of votes on the Plan that either the releasing
 11 parties could assert or that any Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest could assert for or on behalf
 12 of the Debtors or their Estates (whether directly or derivatively): (a) the Subsidiary Debtors and
 13 their respective Estates; (b) the SCI Debtors and their respective Estates; (c) Fertitta
 14 Entertainment (f/k/a FG); (d) New Propco; (e) the New Opco Purchaser; (f) Holdco; (g) Voteco;
 15 (h) the Plan Administrators, solely in their capacity as such; (i) the Mortgage Lenders, solely in
 16 their capacity as such; (j) the SCI Swap Counterparty, solely in its capacity as such; (k) the Land
 17 Loan Lenders, solely in their capacities as such; (l) the Mezzco Lenders, solely in their capacity
 18 as such; (m) New Opco; (n) the Opco Administrative Agent, solely in its capacity as such; (o) the
 19 Consenting Opco Lenders, solely in their capacity as Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders; (p)
 20 Colony Capital, LLC; (q) the Settling Lenders, but only if all of the applicable terms and
 21 conditions of the Settling Lenders Stipulation are satisfied by the Settling Lenders; (r) the SCI
 22 Committee and its members, provided that the Committee Plan Support Stipulation (as defined in
 23 the SCI Plan) has not been terminated as of the Subsidiary Debtors Effective Date; (s) the Put
 24 Parties, provided that the Put Parties Support Agreement and the Propco Commitment have not
 25 been terminated as of the Subsidiary Debtors Effective Date; (t) the Aliante Debtors and their
 26 respective Estates; (u) Reorganized Aliante Gaming; (v) the Aliante Lenders, solely in their
 27 capacities as Aliante Lenders and each and every Person or entity, including without limitation, a
 28 Registered Intermediary Company, designated by any Aliante Lender to receive all or any part of

1 the Distribution in respect of such Aliante Lenders' Allowed Class AGL.1 Claim; (w) the
 2 Aliante Administrative Agent solely in its capacity as such; (x) the Aliante Transaction
 3 Committee and its members, solely in their capacities as such; (y) the Executive Committee of
 4 Aliante Gaming and its members, solely in their capacities as such; (z) ALST Casino Holdco;
 5 (aa) the respective Related Persons of each of the foregoing Entities identified in subsections (a)
 6 through (aa) (as defined in the Plan, the "Released Parties") (the "Debtors' Release").

7 94. The Debtors' Release reflects a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment.
 8 In order to effectively implement the Plan, the non-Debtor parties thereto need assurance that
 9 they will not be subject to any further liability to the Debtors, their Estates, or any party that
 10 seeks to bring a claim on behalf of the Debtors or their Estates. Absent the Debtors' Release, it
 11 is likely that the various Released Parties would not commit to support the Plan because they
 12 would remain exposed to potential claims and causes of action.

13 95. The Third Party Release. Article X.C.2. of the Plan provides that, upon the
 14 Effective Date, to the fullest extent permissible under applicable law, and subject to certain
 15 identified exceptions, each Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest that has indicated on its Ballot
 16 its agreement to grant the release contained in Article X.C.2 fully releases and discharges each
 17 of the Released Parties from any and all claims and causes of action, Avoidance Actions and
 18 Other Debts (including, without limitation, the Going Private Transaction Causes of Action and
 19 the Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action) based on any act, omission or event that
 20 takes place on or before the Effective Date in any way relating or pertaining to (a) the purchase
 21 or sale, or the rescission of a purchase or sale, of any security of the Debtors, (b) the Debtors, the
 22 Reorganized Debtors or their respective assets, property and Estates, (c) the Chapter 11 Cases,
 23 (d) the negotiation, formulation and preparation of the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, or any
 24 related agreements, instruments or other document including, without limitation, all of the
 25 documents included in the Plan Supplement, and (d) the Going Private Transaction Causes of
 26 Action or the Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action (the "Third Party Release").

27 96. Similar to the Debtors' Release, the Third Party Release provides assurance to the
 28 parties to the Plan and the other parties in interest in the Chapter 11 Cases that their liability on

1 account of claims related to the Debtors (including with respect to the Going Private Transaction
 2 Causes of Action and Aliante Prepetition Transactions Causes of Action) will be minimized, and
 3 provides an additional incentive for such parties to settle and consent to the Plan. The Third
 4 Party Releases set forth in Article X.C.2. of the Plan are being made on a wholly voluntary basis
 5 by Holders of Claims or Equity Interests that have indicated on their Ballot that they are
 6 consenting to such release. The Ballots sent to each Holder of a Claim or Equity Interest entitled
 7 to vote on the Plan unambiguously stated that the election to consent to such release was at such
 8 Holder's option. The entirely voluntary Third Party Release is an effective tool in winning the
 9 necessary support for the Plan, and does not prejudice the rights of any party that did not agree to
 10 such Third Party Release. In connection with the Confirmation Hearing, no party in interest
 11 objected to the Debtors' Release or the Third Party Release.

12 **4. Article X.D. of the Plan – Exculpation.**

13 97. Article X.D. of the Plan provides, subject to certain identified exceptions, an
 14 exculpation of the following parties from any Claims or Causes of Action arising prior to or on
 15 the Effective Date for any act taken or omitted to be taken in connection with, or related to the
 16 Chapter 11 Cases, including formulating, negotiating, preparing, disseminating, implementing,
 17 administering, soliciting, confirming or effecting the Consummation of the Plan, the Disclosure
 18 Statement or any sale, contract, instrument, release or other agreement or document created or
 19 entered into in connection with the Plan or any other prepetition or postpetition act taken or
 20 omitted to be taken in connection with or in contemplation of the restructuring of the Debtor, the
 21 approval of the Disclosure Statement, confirmation or Consummation of the Plan: (a) the
 22 Subsidiary Debtors and their respective Estates; (b) the SCI Debtors and their respective Estates;
 23 (c) Fertitta Entertainment (f/k/a FG); (d) New Propco; (e) the New Opco Purchaser; (f) Holdco;
 24 (g) Voteco; (h) the Plan Administrators, solely in their capacity as such; (i) the Mortgage
 25 Lenders, solely in their capacity as such; (j) the SCI Swap Counterparty, solely in its capacity as
 26 such; (k) the Land Loan Lenders, solely in their capacities as such; (l) the Mezzco Lenders,
 27 solely in their capacity as such; (m) New Opco; (n) the Opco Administrative Agent, solely in its
 28 capacity as such; (o) the Consenting Opco Lenders, solely in their capacity as Prepetition Opco

1 Secured Lenders; (p) Colony Capital, LLC; (q) the Settling Lenders, but only if all of the
 2 applicable terms and conditions of the Settling Lenders Stipulation are satisfied by the Settling
 3 Lenders; (r) the SCI Committee and its members, provided that the Committee Support
 4 Stipulation (as defined in the SCI plan) has not been terminated as of the Subsidiary Debtors
 5 Effective Date; (s) the Put Parties, provided that the Put Parties Support Agreement and the
 6 Propco Commitment have not been terminated as of the Subsidiary Debtors Effective Date;
 7 (t) the Aliante Debtors and their respective Estates; (u) Reorganized Aliante Gaming; (v) the
 8 Aliante Lenders, solely in their capacities as Aliante Lenders and each and every Person or
 9 entity, including without limitation, a Registered Intermediary Company, designated by any
 10 Aliante Lender to receive all or any part of the Distribution in respect of such Aliante Lenders'
 11 Allowed Class AGL.1 Claim; (w) the Aliante Administrative Agent solely in its capacity as
 12 such; (x) the Aliante Transaction Committee and its members, solely in their capacities as such;
 13 (y) the Executive Committee of Aliante Gaming and its members, solely in their capacities as
 14 such; (z) ALST Casino Holdco; and (aa) the respective Related Persons of each of the foregoing
 15 Entities identified in subsections (a) through (aa) (the "Exculpated Parties").

16 98. The Plan's exculpation provision provides additional incentive for the various
 17 major parties to the Chapter 11 Cases to commit to and support the Plan. The exculpation
 18 ensures that such parties will not be subject to any claims or causes of action relating to their
 19 good faith acts or omissions in the restructuring efforts that began in late 2008. The exculpation
 20 ensures that the Plan will have finality, and that the parties thereto will not be subject to
 21 collateral attacks through litigation against the Plan's proponents and supporters. In connection
 22 with the Confirmation Hearing, no party in interest objected to the exculpation provisions of the
 23 Plan.

24 99. The Court previously found with respect to the SCI Plan that no successor
 25 liability arises in connection with the Restructuring Transactions therein. The Court finds that
 26 the settlement, release, injunction and exculpation provisions set forth in Article X. of the Plan
 27 (i) are integral to the agreement among the various parties in interest and the overall objectives of
 28 the Plan, (ii) are essential to the formulation and successful implementation of the Plan for the

1 purposes of Section 1123(a)(5), (iii) are being provided for valuable consideration and have been
 2 negotiated in good faith and at arms' length, (iv) confer material and substantial benefits on the
 3 Debtors' Estates, and (v) are in the best interests of the Debtors, their Estates and other parties in
 4 interest and, as to the releases made by, or on behalf of, the Debtors or the Estates, are based on
 5 sound business judgment.

6 **5. No Successor Liability**

7 100. Section 1141(c) provides in relevant part that "after confirmation of a plan, the
 8 property dealt with by a plan is free and clear of all claims and interests of creditors, equity
 9 security holders, and of general partners in the debtor." 11 U.S.C. § 1141(c).¹¹ In addition,
 10 Section 363(f) provides statutory authority for the sale of estate property free and clear of
 11 "interests in the property," and courts have generally interpreted Section 363(f) to authorize sales
 12 free and clear of liens and claims. *See e.g., In re Trans World Airlines*, 322 F.3d 283, 290 (3d
 13 Cir. 2003) (holding that unsecured claims of debtor's employees "are interests within the
 14 meaning of Section 363(f) in the sense that they arise from the property being sold."); *Meyers v.*
 15 *United States*, 297 B.R. 774, 781-82 (S.D.Cal. 2003) (concluding that purchaser had acquired
 16 assets of debtor free and clear of plaintiff's unsecured personal injury claims). Courts have also
 17 expressly held that transferees of a debtor's assets pursuant to a sale approved under Section 363
 18 or pursuant to confirmation of a chapter 11 plan are not liable for claims against the debtor under
 19 successor liability theories. *See e.g., In re Trans World Airlines, supra* (Section 363 sale); *Meyers*
 20 *v. United States, supra* (Section 363 sale); *In re White Motor Credit Corp.*, 75 B.R. 944, 950
 21 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1987) (confirmation of plan). The court in *White Motor Credit Corp.* held
 22 that state law successor liability theories are preempted by the Bankruptcy Code. 75 B.R. at 950.

23 101. The Plan provides that the entities receiving the New Opcos Acquired Assets, the
 24 New Propcos Acquired Assets, the Landco Assets, the Aliante Holdings Assets and the

25
 26 ¹¹ Section 1141(c) is expressly subject to the provisions of Section 1141(d)(3), which provides that
 27 confirmation of a plan does not discharge a liquidating debtor, but Section 1141(c) refers to *property* of
 28 the debtor, not the debtor. *See e.g., In re Regional Bldg. Sys., Inc.*, 251 B.R. 274, 282 (Bankr. D. Md.
 2000), aff'd, 254 F.3d 528, 531 (4th Cir. 2001) (free and clear provision of Section 1141(c) applies to
 liquidating chapter 11 plans); *In re Shenandoah Realty*, 248 B.R. 505, 513 (W.D. Va. 2000) (same); *In re*
Van Dyke, No. 88-81521, 1996 WL 33401578 at *4 (Bankr. C.D. Ill. Jan. 10, 1996) (same).

1 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets and their respective subsidiaries, creditors and equity holders,
 2 shall have no successor liability for creditors' Claims (including Claims of governmental
 3 entities) against the Debtors and the SCI Debtors, including any Claims arising out of or related
 4 to the Restructuring Transactions, or otherwise based upon the implementation of the Plan, and
 5 such intent of the Plan was plainly described in the Disclosure Statement. During the course of
 6 the Chapter 11 Cases, and in connection with the Confirmation Hearing, no party in interest
 7 objected to such Plan term. Moreover, the Restructuring Transactions were entirely
 8 contemplated in the SCI Plan previously approved by the Court pursuant to a confirmation order
 9 that is final and non-appealable. As a result, the Court already previously determined that there
 10 would be no successor liability in connection with the Restructuring Transactions.

11 102. In considering how traditional successor liability analysis would apply to the
 12 transfers of the Subsidiary Debtors' assets to New OpcO Purchaser and New Propco, the Court is
 13 mindful of the fact that the default rule under state law is that acquirors have no successor
 14 liability. *Village Builders 96, L.P. v. U.S. Laboratories, Inc.*, 121 Nev. 261, 268, 112 P.3d 1082,
 15 1087 (Nev. 2005) ("[I]t is the general rule that when one corporation sells all of its assets to
 16 another corporation the purchaser is not liable for the debts of the seller." (quoting *Lamb v. Leroy*
 17 *Corp.*, 85 Nev. 276, 279, 454 P.2d 24, 26–27 (Nev. 1969)). Successor liability against acquirors
 18 is only applied when one of the exceptions to the default rule against successor liability has been
 19 proven. *Village Builders*, 121 Nev. at 268, 112 P.3d at 1087 (purchasers of assets have no
 20 successor liability unless one of the following four exceptions are met: (a) the transferee has
 21 agreed to assume the transferor's liabilities; (b) the transaction is a *de facto merger*; (c) the
 22 transferee is mere continuation of transferor; or (d) the transaction is a fraud to escape liabilities).

23 103. In reviewing the relevant facts, there does not appear to be any evidence of
 24 successor liability since none of the *Village Builders* exceptions to the general rule of no
 25 successor liability apply to the Restructuring Transactions and implementation of the Plan. First,
 26 New OpcO Purchaser and the other Transferee Parties are not assuming the Debtors' liabilities;
 27 the Plan and the other Restructuring Transactions related documents are clear and unequivocal
 28 on that point.

1 104. Second, courts generally will not find a *de facto* merger unless the consideration
 2 for the assets is the stock of the transferee, which is not the case here. *See Louisiana-Pacific*
 3 *Corp. v. Asarco, Inc.*, 909 F.2d 1260, 1264-65 (9th Cir. 1990) (overruled on other grounds)
 4 (finding no continuity of shareholders where consideration paid by purchaser was a combination
 5 of cash, promissory note and payment of some debts, and no stock in purchaser or its parent
 6 company was exchanged as part of the sale); *see also Ferguson v. Arcata Redwood Co., LLC*,
 7 2004 WL 2600471, *4 (N.D.Cal. Nov. 12, 2004) (purchaser was not alleged to have purchased
 8 seller's assets with stock, precluding a finding of successor liability); *Kaleta v. Whittaker Corp.*,
 9 221 Ill. App. 3d 705, 709 (1991) (when payment for assets by stock of transferee is not present,
 10 sound policy does not support imposing the predecessor's liabilities upon the successor "when it
 11 has already paid a substantial price for the assets of the predecessor."). Here, the consideration
 12 paid for the assets of the Subsidiary Debtors is cash and secured notes issued by New Opco.
 13 None of the consideration for the assets being sold under the Plan is the stock of transferee.

14 105. Third, courts will not find a *de facto* merger or that the transferee is a mere
 15 continuation of the transferor unless the shareholders of the transferor and transferee are
 16 substantially the same, which is not the case here. *See e.g. Village Builders*, 121 Nev. at 274,
 17 112 P.3d at 1090-91 (no showing of mere continuation without "identity of stock, stockholders
 18 and directors between the two corporations") (emphasis added). *See also, Commercial Nat'l*
 19 *Bank v. Newton*, 39 Ill.App.3d 216, 217 (1976) (applying the general rule against corporate
 20 successor liability in a situation where one shareholder owned 25% of the predecessor
 21 corporation, and after the asset transfer the same shareholder owned 40% of the successor
 22 corporation); *Joseph Huber Brewing Co., Inc. v. Pamado, Inc.*, No. 05 C 2783, 2006 WL
 23 2583719, *12-13 (N.D.Ill., September 5, 2006) (finding that a continuity of minority
 24 ownership—approximately 15%—does not weigh in favor of a finding for the continuation
 25 exception); *Jeong v. Onada Cement Co., Ltd.*, 2000 WL 33954824, *4 fn. 4 (C.D.Cal., May 17,
 26 2000) (acknowledging that under California law, successor liability exists where shareholders are
 27 "practically" the same).

28

1 106. Here, there the shareholders of the transferors are not substantially the same as the
 2 shareholders of the transferee. The transferors, the Subsidiary Debtors, are currently owned
 3 directly and indirectly by Colony Capital and the Fertitta family. Colony owns approximately
 4 74%, and the Fertitta family approximately 26%, of the economic value of the Subsidiary
 5 Debtors. The transferee, however, New Propco and its affiliates, will be owned 40% by the
 6 current Mortgage Lenders and Mezzco Lenders, 15% by the general unsecured creditors of the
 7 SCI Debtors that acquire equity through the Propco Rights Offering, and 45% by Fertitta
 8 Gaming LLC. As a result, the majority of the transferee stock will be held by entities that hold
 9 no stock in the transferor Debtors.

10 107. The board of directors of the transferors also is not substantially the same as the
 11 boards of directors of the transferees. Of the proposed six person board of directors of the
 12 transferee, three proposed directors are current directors of SCI and three are not.

13 108. Fourth, numerous courts, including Nevada courts, have not found the transferee
 14 to be a mere continuation of the transferor where the selling corporation continues to exist, even
 15 if the selling corporation ceases its business operations. For example, in *Village Builders, supra*,
 16 where the Nevada Supreme Court declined to find successor liability, the transferor had sold all
 17 of its assets, but the transferor corporation was maintained for the purpose of a pending lawsuit.
 18 121 Nev. at 272. Other jurisdictions have reached similar conclusions. *See e.g., Schumacher v.*
 19 *Richards Shear Co.*, 59 N.Y.S.2d 239, 245 (1983) (“Since Richards Shear survived the instant
 20 purchase agreement as a distinct, albeit meager, entity, the Appellate Division properly
 21 concluded that Logemann cannot be considered a mere continuation of Richards Shear.”);
 22 *Gavette v. The Warner & Swasey Co.*, No. 90-CV-217, 1999 WL 118438, at *5 (N.D.N.Y. Mar.
 23 5, 1999) (finding that *de facto* merger did not lie because the seller corporation continued to exist
 24 “at least transcendentally for one year.”). Here, like the transferor in *Village Builders*, the
 25 Subsidiary Debtors will continue to exist after the Effective Date for the purpose of
 26 implementing the Plan.

27 109. Finally, the Plan is unmistakably not a fraud to escape liabilities. The record of
 28 the Chapter 11 Cases shows that the parties to the Plan have acted in good faith, the Plan has

1 been proposed in good faith, and the Plan accomplishes the goals of maximizing the value of the
 2 Debtors' assets for the benefits of the Debtors' creditors. Thus, based upon the facts of these
 3 Chapter 11 Cases, none of the exceptions to the rule against successor liability under Nevada law
 4 apply.

5 **D. SATISFACTION OF CONDITIONS TO CONFIRMATION.**

6 110. Each of the conditions precedent to the entry of these Findings of Fact and
 7 Conclusions of Law and the Confirmation Order, as set forth in Article IX.A. of the Plan, has
 8 been satisfied.

9 **III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.**

10 **A. JURISDICTION AND VENUE.**

11 111. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and
 12 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). The Debtors were and are
 13 qualified to be debtors under Section 109. Venue of the Chapter 11 Cases in the United States
 14 Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada was proper as of the Petition Date, pursuant to 28
 15 U.S.C. § 1408, and continues to be proper.

16 **B. COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 1129 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE.**

17 112. As set forth above, the Plan complies in all respects with the applicable
 18 requirements of Section 1129(a), except Section 1129(a)(8). Notwithstanding the fact that
 19 Section 1129(a)(8) has not been satisfied, the Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 1129(b)
 20 with respect to all non-accepting Classes of Claims and Equity Interests. The Court will confirm
 21 the Plan and enter the Confirmation Order contemporaneous with these Findings of Fact and
 22 Conclusions of Law.

23 **1. The Classification of Claims Under the Plan
 24 Complies With the Requirements of the Bankruptcy Code.**

25 113. Under the Plan, General Unsecured Claims against the Subsidiary Debtors are
 26 separately classified from the unsecured deficiency claims and other unsecured claims of the
 27 Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders against the Subsidiary Debtors, and the creditors are treated
 28 differently. General Unsecured Claims against the Subsidiary Debtors will be paid in full and

1 General Unsecured Claims ; in contrast, the Prepetition Opcos Secured Lenders will receive the
 2 consideration provided to them under the New Opcos Purchase Agreement and SCI Plan in
 3 satisfaction of their Claims (secured and unsecured) against the Subsidiary Debtors, which is not
 4 payment in full (the Prepetition Opcos Secured Lenders Allowed Claim is at least \$882 million,
 5 while they will receive on their Claims, in the aggregate, approximately \$772 million in cash and
 6 new secured notes).

7 114. There are good business and legal reasons for this separate classification and
 8 treatment. First, the treatment of the creditors is materially different, thereby counseling in favor
 9 of separate classification. Second, the Prepetition Opcos Secured Lenders have consented to the
 10 Plan treatment of their unsecured claims, and such consent is reflected in the vote of Classes
 11 BS.3(a), CS.3(a), FS.3(a), FLA.3(a), GR.3(a), GVS.3(a), GVRS.3(a), LM.3(a), MS.3(a),
 12 PSHC.3(a), PE.3(a), RS.3(a), SF.3(a), SL.3(a), SH.3(a), SS.3(a), TS.3(a), CH.2(a), LML.2(a),
 13 STN.2(a) and TSI.3(a) in favor of the Plan. Third, the separate classification of the Prepetition
 14 Opcos Secured Lenders' unsecured claims does not appear to result in any economic advantage
 15 for the Debtors or any group of creditors over another group of creditors (other than as such
 16 creditors have consented). Fourth, the separate classification of the Prepetition Opcos Secured
 17 Lenders' unsecured claims does not appear to constitute gerrymandering for the purpose of
 18 creating an impaired consenting Class. Proof of the absence of gerrymandering is found in the
 19 fact that all of the Classes of Claims actually adversely affected by the separate classification and
 20 treatment voted to accept the Plan. Therefore, under the circumstances of these Chapter 11
 21 Cases, it is appropriate to separately classify the General Unsecured Claims against the
 22 Subsidiary Debtors from the unsecured deficiency claims and other unsecured claims of the
 23 Prepetition Opcos Secured Lenders against the Subsidiary Debtors, and such separate
 24 classification complies with all of the applicable provisions of Sections 1122 and 1123(a)(1).

25 **2. The Plan Complies With the Requirements of Section 1129(a)(10).**

26 115. All Voting Classes voted to accept the Plan, in each case determined without
 27 including any acceptance of the Plan by any insider. They are Classes AGL.1, ASL.1, ASL.3(a),
 28 BS.1, BS.3(a), CH.2(a), CS.1, CS.3(a), CVH.1, FS.1, FS.3(a), FLA.1, FLA.3(a), GR.1, GR.3(a),

1 GVRS.1, GVRS.3(a), GVS.1, GVS.3(a), LM.1, LM.3(a), LML.2(a), MS.1, MS.3(a), PSHC.1,
 2 PSHC.3(a), PE.1, PE.3(a), RS.1, RS.3(a), SF.1, SF.3(a), SL.1, SL.3(a), SH.1, SH.3(a), SS.1,
 3 SS.3(a), STN.2(a), TS.1 and TS.3(a), TSI.1 and TSI.3(a). However, eight of the Debtors had no
 4 Voting Classes. The bankruptcy courts that have expressly considered the matter have uniformly
 5 held that compliance with Section 1129(a)(10) is tested on a per-plan basis, not on a per-debtor
 6 basis, and that Section 1129(a)(10) therefore does not require an accepting impaired class for
 7 each debtor under a joint plan. *See e.g. In re Charter Communications, Inc.*, 419 B.R. 221, 266
 8 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009) (joint plan of 110 debtors that did not involve substantive consolidation;
 9 court held that only a single accepting impaired class under the plan required to satisfy Section
 10 1129(a)(10)); *In re Enron Corp.*, Case No. 01-16034 (AJG), 2004 Bankr. LEXIS 2549 at *234-
 11 235 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 15, 2004) (joint chapter 11 plan for 177 debtors confirmed although
 12 majority of debtors lacked an impaired consenting class); *In re SGPA, Inc.*, Case No. 1-01-
 13 02609, 2001 WL 34750646, at p.7 (Bankr. M.D. Pa. Sept. 8, 2001) (bankruptcy court confirmed
 14 joint plan for multiple debtors and held that “in a joint plan of reorganization it is not necessary
 15 to have an impaired class of creditors of each Debtor vote to accept the Plan.”).

16 116. The Court agrees with the *Enron* court that the plain language and inherent
 17 fundamental policy behind Section 1129(a)(10) supports the view that the affirmative vote of one
 18 impaired class under the joint plan of multiple debtors is sufficient to satisfy Section
 19 1129(a)(10). *See In re Enron Corp.*, 2004 Bankr. LEXIS 2549 at *234-235. The Court
 20 concludes, therefore, that the acceptance of the Plan by all Voting Classes is sufficient for the
 21 Plan to satisfy the requirements of Section 1129(a)(10).

22 **3. The Plan Complies With the Requirements of Section 1129(a)(11).**

23 117. The Subsidiary Debtors. Section 1129(a)(11) requires the Court to find that
 24 confirmation of the Plan is not likely to be followed by the need for further financial
 25 reorganization of the Debtors or any successor to the Debtors under the Plan. Since the Plan is a
 26 liquidating Plan for all of the Debtors except Aliante Gaming, the question of further financial
 27 reorganization of those Debtors is moot. *See e.g., In re 47th and Bellevue Partners*, 95 B.R.
 28 117, 120 (Bankr. W.D. Mo. 1988) (under the literal wording of Section 1129(a)(11), it is

1 unnecessary to show feasibility when liquidation is proposed in the plan); *In re Pero Bros.*
 2 *Farms, Inc.*, 90 B.R. 562, 563 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1988) (the feasibility test has no application to a
 3 liquidation plan). Moreover, none of the Transferee Parties receiving the Subsidiary Debtors'
 4 assets are successors to the Debtors; therefore, no feasibility finding is required with respect to
 5 those entities either.

6 118. Even if the feasibility test of Section 1129(a)(11) applies in circumstances where
 7 a debtor's assets are being sold and the debtor liquidated, such test is satisfied if the liquidation is
 8 contemplated under the Plan, as it is here, and can be consummated. *See e.g., In re Cypresswood*
 9 *Land Partners, I*, 409 B.R. 396, 433 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2009) (plan that provides for a sale of
 10 substantially all of a debtor's assets offers a reasonable probability of success and can satisfy
 11 Section 1129(a)(11)). Here, the assets of the Subsidiary Debtors will be transferred to the
 12 Transferee Parties under the Plan on the Effective Date. The Plan is feasible if the Transferee
 13 Parties have the financial wherewithal to close on the Restructuring Transactions in a manner
 14 that has a reasonable prospect of resulting in the consummation of the Plan. To demonstrate that
 15 a plan is feasible, a debtor need only show a reasonable probability of success. *In re Acequia,*
 16 *Inc.*, 787 F.2d 1352, 1364 (9th Cir. 1986). Based upon (i) the financial projections for New
 17 Propco and New Opco, (ii) the clear financial wherewithal and desire of the parties to the
 18 Restructuring Transactions to close on and implement the respective asset purchase agreements
 19 on the Effective Date, and (iii) the evidence that the Backstop Parties are willing to purchase up
 20 to \$100 million of equity in New Propco, it appears that: (a) New Opco Purchaser will close on
 21 the New Opco Purchase Agreement, and (b) New Propco and New Opco Purchaser and their
 22 affiliates will be able to service the debt obligations they are issuing in connection with the
 23 Restructuring Transactions.

24 119. The Aliante Debtors. As a result of the debt for equity exchange on which the
 25 Aliante Gaming restructuring is based (including the payment in full of the General Unsecured
 26 Creditors), Reorganized Aliante Gaming will have a substantially deleveraged capital structure
 27 and is projected in the Aliante Gaming financial projections to be able to operate its business and
 28 meet its obligations without the need for further financial reorganization. Given the discharge

1 under the Plan of more than \$430 million of secured and unsecured claims against Aliante
 2 Gaming, it is reasonable to expect that, as the Aliante Gaming financial projections demonstrate,
 3 after consummation of the Plan, Reorganized Aliante Gaming will not require further financial
 4 reorganization.

5 120. The Court concludes that the Plan meets the feasibility test of Section 1129(a)(11)
 6 as to all Debtors.

7 **C. THE TERMS OF THE RESTRUCTURING
 8 TRANSACTIONS ARE APPROVED IN ALL RESPECTS**

9 121. Each Subsidiary Debtor provided good and sufficient notice of the assumption, or
 10 assumption and assignment, as the case may be, of the contracts and leases that are transferred
 11 assets under the New Opco Purchase Agreement, New Opco Implementation Agreements,
 12 Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco Implementation Agreements and New Aliante
 13 Transaction Agreements. Aliante Gaming provided good and sufficient notice of the rejection of
 14 any contracts or leases. Each of the Debtors has, under the terms of the Plan, until the Effective
 15 Date to file additional schedules of assumed, assigned, or rejected contracts and leases, and
 16 notice of proposed Cure Amounts.

17 122. New Opco Purchaser is not an insider of the Sellers as that term is used in the
 18 New Opco Purchase Agreement; and in each case as “insider” is defined in Section 101(31).

19 123. On the Effective Date, the transfer of the New Opco Acquired Assets, New
 20 Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the Transferred Aliante
 21 Hotel Assets to the applicable Transferee Parties under the Plan (a) will be legal, valid, and
 22 effective transfers of the New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco
 23 Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets, and (b) will vest the
 24 Transferee Parties with all right, title, and interest of the Debtors in such assets free and clear of
 25 all Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests,
 26 including but not limited to all claims arising under doctrines of successor liability.

27 124. The Restructuring Transactions, including, without limitation, the New Opco
 28 Purchase Agreement, New Opco Credit Agreement, New Opco Implementation Agreements,

1 Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco Implementation Agreements, the Amended and
 2 Restated Operating Agreement for IP Holdco, the New Aliante Transaction Agreements and the
 3 other Plan implementation agreements, documents and instruments referred to in Article V of the
 4 Plan or otherwise contained in the Plan, or executed and delivered in connection with
 5 implementing the transactions contemplated under the Plan, were negotiated and have been and
 6 are undertaken by the Debtors and the applicable Transferee Parties and other parties at arms'
 7 length without collusion or fraud, and in good faith within the meaning of Section 363(m). The
 8 prepetition marketing of the Debtors' assets were conducted at arms' length and in good faith
 9 within the meaning of Section 363(m). New Opco Purchaser is a purchaser in good faith as that
 10 term is used in Section 363(m), and New Opco Purchaser and the Subsidiary Debtors are entitled
 11 to the protections of Section 363(m) with respect to the assets they are transferring to New Opco
 12 Purchaser. Moreover, none of the Subsidiary Debtors or New Opco Purchaser engaged in
 13 conduct that would cause or permit the New Opco Purchase Agreement, the consummation of
 14 the sale, the related Restructuring Transactions, or the assumption and assignment of the
 15 Assumed Contracts to be avoided, or costs or damages to be imposed, under Section 363(n). All
 16 debts incurred by New Opco Purchaser in connection with the Restructuring Transactions, and
 17 all Liens granted by New Opco Purchaser and its subsidiaries and affiliates in connection with
 18 such incurrence of debt, are entitled to the protections of Section 364(e).

19 125. The consideration provided by the Transferee Parties for the New Opco Acquired
 20 Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the
 21 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets is fair and reasonable and shall be deemed for all purposes to
 22 constitute Value under the Bankruptcy Code and any other applicable law.

23 126. The Debtors are authorized to convey, assign, transfer and deliver the New Opco
 24 Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the
 25 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets to the Transferee Parties free and clear of all free and clear of
 26 all Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests,
 27 because, with respect to each creditor asserting a Lien, Claim, Equity Interest, encumbrance,
 28 charge, Other Debt or other interest, one or more of the standards set forth in Sections 363(f)(1)-

1 (5), 1129 or 1141 has been satisfied; including without limitation because the New Opco
2 Purchase Agreement satisfies the requirements of Section 363(f). Those Holders of Liens,
3 Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests who did not
4 object or withdrew objections to the Plan and related Restructuring Transactions are deemed to
5 have consented thereto pursuant to Sections 363(f)(2) and 1141. Those Holders of Liens,
6 Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests who did object
7 fall within one or more of the other subsections of Section 363(f), or their objections were
8 overruled pursuant to Section 1129 and 1141.

9 127. Except as otherwise expressly provided in the New Opco Purchase Agreement,
10 New Opco Implementation Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco
11 Implementation Agreements and New Aliante Transaction Agreements, the Transferee Parties
12 are not assuming, nor shall they or any of their affiliates, or their respective Related Persons, be
13 deemed in any way liable or responsible as a successor or otherwise for, any liabilities, debts, or
14 obligations of the Debtors in any way whatsoever relating to or arising from the Debtors'
15 ownership of the New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets,
16 Aliante Holdings Assets and the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets or use of such assets on or
17 prior to the Effective Date. The Confirmation Order shall provide that all such liabilities, debts
18 and obligations are extinguished as to all Persons, Entities and Governmental Units on the
19 Effective Date insofar as they may give rise to liability, successor or otherwise, under any theory
20 of law or equity against the Transferee Parties and their Related Persons.

21 128. Pursuant to the terms of the New Opco Purchase Agreement, New Opco
22 Implementation Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco Implementation
23 Agreements, the Amended and Restated Operating Agreement for IP Holdco, the New Aliante
24 Transaction Agreements and Sections 363(b), 363(f) and 1141(c), the Debtors are authorized to
25 consummate, and shall be deemed for all purposes to have consummated, the sale, transfer and
26 assignment of the New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets,
27 Aliante Holdings Assets and the Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets to the applicable Transferee
28 Parties on the Effective Date free and clear of (i) all Liens, Claims, Equity Interests,

1 encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests, including without limitation any Claim,
 2 whether arising prior to or subsequent to the commencement of the Chapter 11 Cases, or arising
 3 under doctrines of successor liability, and (ii) any restriction on the use, voting, transfer, receipt
 4 of income or other exercise of any attributes of ownership of such assets. The Confirmation
 5 Order shall provide that, except as otherwise expressly provided in the New Opco Purchase
 6 Agreement, New Opco Implementation Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New
 7 Propco Implementation Agreements and New Aliante Transaction Agreements, on the Effective
 8 Date all such Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts, other
 9 interests and restrictions shall be released, terminated and discharged as to the New Opco
 10 Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the
 11 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets and the Transferee Parties.

12 129. The Transferee Parties shall not be deemed a successor of or to the Debtors or the
 13 Debtors' estates with respect to Liens, Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other
 14 Debts or other interests against or in the Debtors or the New Opco Acquired Assets, New Propco
 15 Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the Transferred Aliante Hotel
 16 Assets, and the Transferee Parties shall not be deemed liable in any way for any such Liens,
 17 Claims, Equity Interests, encumbrances, charges, Other Debts or other interests, including,
 18 without limitation, the Excluded Liabilities or Excluded Assets (as those terms are used in the
 19 New Opco Purchase Agreement). The Confirmation Order shall provide that, on the Effective
 20 Date, all creditors and equityholders of the Debtors, including all Governmental Units, are
 21 permanently and forever barred, restrained and enjoined from (a) asserting any claims or
 22 enforcing remedies, or commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding
 23 of any kind, against the Transferee Parties, their Related Persons or the New Opco Acquired
 24 Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the
 25 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets on account of any Liens, Claims, Equity Interests,
 26 encumbrances, charges, Other Debts, other interests, Excluded Liabilities or Excluded Assets, or
 27 (b) asserting any claims or enforcing remedies against any of the Transferee Parties or their
 28

1 Related Persons under any theory of successor liability, merger, *de facto* merger, substantial
2 continuity or similar theory.

3 130. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing paragraph, other than as
4 specifically set forth in the New Opco Purchase Agreement, New Opco Implementation
5 Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propco Implementation Agreements and
6 New Aliante Transaction Agreements: (a) the Transferee Parties and their Related Persons shall
7 have no liability or obligation (x) to pay wages, bonuses, severance pay, benefits (including,
8 without limitation, contributions or payments on account of any under-funding with respect to
9 any pension plans) or any other payment to employees of the Debtors, and (y) in respect of any
10 employee pension plan, employee health plan, employee retention program, employee incentive
11 program or any other similar agreement, plan or program to which any Debtors are a party
12 (including, without limitation, liabilities or obligations arising from or related to the rejection or
13 other termination of any such plan, program agreement or benefit); and (b) the Transferee Parties
14 and their Related Persons shall in no way be deemed a party to or assignee of any such employee
15 benefit, agreement, plan or program, and all parties to any such employee benefit, agreement,
16 plan or program are enjoined from asserting against the Transferee Parties and their Related
17 Persons any Claims arising from or relating to such employee benefit, agreement, plan or
18 program.

19 131. The Debtors have demonstrated that it is an exercise of their sound business
20 judgment to assume and assign the Assumed Contracts to the applicable Transferee Parties in
21 connection with the consummation of the conveyances and assignments under the New Opco
22 Purchase Agreement, New Opco Implementation Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer
23 Agreement, New Propco Implementation Agreements, the Amended and Restated Operating
24 Agreement for IP Holdco and the New Aliante Transaction Agreements, and the assumption and
25 assignment of the Assumed Contracts is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their
26 creditors, and all parties in interest. The Assumed Contracts being assigned and sold to the
27 applicable Transferee Parties are an integral part of the Restructuring Transactions, and
28

1 accordingly, such assumptions and assignments of the Assumed Contracts are reasonable and
 2 enhance the value of the Debtors' estates.

3 132. By implementing the New Opcos Purchase Agreement, New Opcos Implementation
 4 Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New Propcos Implementation Agreements, the
 5 Amended and Restated Operating Agreement for IP Holdco and the New Aliante Transaction
 6 Agreements, (a) the Debtors will have provided adequate assurance of cure of any monetary
 7 default existing prior to the Closing under any of the Assumed Contracts, within the meaning of
 8 Section 365(b)(1)(A), and will have provided adequate assurance of compensation to any party
 9 for any actual pecuniary loss to such party resulting from a default prior to the date hereof under
 10 any of the Assumed Contracts within the meaning of Section 365(b)(1)(B), and (b) the
 11 Transferee Parties will have provided adequate assurance of future performance of and under any
 12 of the Assumed Contracts, within the meaning of Sections 365(b)(1)(C) and 365(f).

13 **D. APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENTS, RELEASES
 14 AND EXONERATIONS PROVIDED UNDER THE PLAN.**

15 133. Based upon the wide ranging support for the Plan among secured and unsecured
 16 creditors, and the Court's finding that the Plan is the best option the Debtors' creditors have to
 17 preserve the economic viability and job sustaining value of the Debtors' assets, the Court
 18 concludes that each of the settlement, release, exculpation and related provisions of Article X. of
 19 the Plan are fair and necessary for the successful implementation of the Plan and are approved.

20 **1. The Global Settlement in Article X.B.2. of the Plan is Approved.**

21 134. Based upon the record of the Chapter 11 Cases, the Court concludes that the
 22 Debtors were justified in proposing to settle and release the Going Private Transaction and the
 23 Aliante Prepetition Transactions pursuant to the Plan, because such settlement and compromise
 24 is consistent with the factors enunciated in *Protective Committee for Independent Stockholders of*
TMT Trailer Ferry, Inc. v. Anderson, 390 U.S. 414, 424 (1968), and *Martin v. Kane (In re A & C*
Properties), 784 F.2d 1377 (9th Cir. 1986), *cert. denied sub nom. Martin v. Robinson*, 479 U.S.
 25 854 (1986), for approval of settlements in bankruptcy cases. The low probability of success in
 26 the litigation, the complexity, expense and delay necessarily associated with any such litigation,
 27

1 and the paramount interest of the creditors and a proper deference to their reasonable views all
 2 weigh heavily in favor of settlement here, not litigation. Accordingly, the Court concludes that
 3 the Global Settlement and the provisions of Article X.B.2. constitute a fair and equitable
 4 settlement that is in the best interests of the creditors and their estates, and one that satisfies in all
 5 respects the requirements of *TMT Trailer* and *In re A & C Properties* for settlements proposed
 6 by chapter 11 debtors.

7 135. The Global Settlement is in the best interest of each Debtor and its respective
 8 Estate and the Holders of Claims, Administrative Claims and Equity Interests providing such
 9 releases, and is fair, equitable and reasonable.

10 **2. The Exculpation Provisions of Article X.D. of the Plan Are Approved.**

11 136. Section 524(e) provides in relevant part that “discharge of a debt of the debtor
 12 does not affect the liability of any other entity, on or the property of any other entity for, such
 13 debt.” In *In re Lowenschuss*, 67 F.3d 1394 (9th Cir. 1995), the Court of Appeals for the Ninth
 14 Circuit held that Section 524(e) applies to chapter 11 plan bankruptcy discharges. However,
 15 bankruptcy courts generally recognize that Section 524(e) is silent on whether a chapter 11 plan
 16 or confirmation order could affect the liability of a non-debtor on statutory grounds *other than* a
 17 bankruptcy discharge. Here the exculpation provision of Article X.D. does not violate Section
 18 524(e) because it is based upon the more limited exculpation provisions that are expressly
 19 contemplated and permitted by Bankruptcy Code Section 1125(e).

20 137. Section 1125(e) provides a grant of immunity from liability not only under the
 21 securities laws, but also under any law, rule, or regulation governing solicitation or acceptance of
 22 a plan, to any person that participates in good faith in the solicitation of acceptances of a plan or
 23 the offer, issuance, sale or purchase of a security offered or sold in connection with the plan.
 24 Read literally, nothing in Section 1125(e) limits that protection to post-petition activities.
 25 Moreover, another related provision of Section 1125, Section 1125(g), contemplates and
 26 authorizes solicitation of acceptances of a chapter 11 plan prior to commencement of a
 27 bankruptcy case if solicited in compliance with applicable non-bankruptcy law.

28

1 138. Here, as discussed in Article II. of the Disclosure Statement for the SCI Plan, the
 2 Subsidiary Debtors and SCI Debtors conducted such pre-bankruptcy solicitations as part of their
 3 ongoing restructuring efforts dating back to late 2008. Specifically, during 2008 and the first six
 4 months of 2009, the SCI Debtors and Subsidiary Debtors engaged in various discussions with the
 5 lenders under the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement and the CMBS Loans and Holders of the
 6 Senior Notes and Senior Subordinated Notes regarding restructuring alternatives for the Debtors'
 7 outstanding indebtedness. In November 2008, the SCI Debtors made an offer to exchange new
 8 secured term loans for the outstanding Senior Notes and Senior Subordinated Notes, which
 9 would have included a restructuring of the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement and the CMBS
 10 Loans. The November 2008 exchange offer was unsuccessful.

11 139. In February 2009, the SCI Debtors solicited votes from the Holders of the Senior
 12 Notes and Senior Subordinated Notes for a prepackaged plan of reorganization pursuant to which
 13 the Holders of the Senior Notes and Senior Subordinated Notes would have received second and
 14 third lien notes, respectively, and cash in a plan of reorganization, and the outstanding
 15 indebtedness under the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement and CMBS Loans would have been
 16 restructured. The solicitation for the prepackaged plan of reorganization did not receive
 17 sufficient votes to approve the plan, and that plan did not proceed.

18 140. In March 2009, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of each series of
 19 Senior Notes and Senior Subordinated Notes entered into a forbearance agreement with SCI with
 20 respect to the events of default resulting from SCI's failure to pay interest on the Senior Notes
 21 and Senior Subordinated Notes. Majority lenders under the Prepetition Opco Credit Agreement
 22 likewise entered into a forbearance agreement with SCI relating to various purported events of
 23 default. During the period from March 2009 to the commencement of the SCI Cases, the SCI
 24 Debtors and Subsidiary Debtors continued to negotiate the terms of a consensual restructuring
 25 with the various creditors of the Debtors.

26 141. Aliante Gaming also began negotiating the terms of a consensual restructuring
 27 with its principal creditor constituencies more than nine months prior to the Petition Date. In
 28

1 March 2011, the Subsidiary Debtors and the Aliante Debtors conducted a formal pre-bankruptcy
 2 solicitation of acceptances of the Plan, as authorized under Section 1125(g).

3 142. The Court is of the view that, since the pre-petition restructuring efforts were
 4 made in good faith and the parties sought a result consistent with the relief available under
 5 chapter 11, such conduct is precisely the type of activity that Section 1125(e) is designed to
 6 protect. It would be inequitable, and would not comport with the plain intent of Section 1125(e)
 7 if, after confirmation of the Plan and implementation of the Restructuring Transactions, the
 8 Exculpated Parties -- the Persons and Entities on the Debtor and creditor sides that actively
 9 participated in the process of reaching a consensual chapter 11 plan -- could then be sued for
 10 their good faith prepetition and post-petition restructuring efforts. Accordingly, the Court
 11 concludes that each of the Exculpated Parties is entitled to the protections afforded them by
 12 Section 1125(e) and Article X.D. of the Plan.¹²

13 **3. The Releases in Article X.C. of the Plan are Approved.**

14 143. A release of non-debtor third parties voluntarily and knowingly given by a
 15 creditor or equity holder in connection with a chapter 11 plan does not implicate the concerns
 16 regarding third party releases discussed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Lowenschuss*,
 17 *supra*. See e.g., *In re Pacific Gas & Elec. Co.*, 304 B.R. 395, 416-18 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. 2004)
 18 (confirming plan that included governmental agency's release of debtor's parent entity and its
 19 officers and directors because the agency had consented to the release); *In re Hotel Mt. Lassen,*
 20 *Inc.*, 207 B.R. 935, 941 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 1997) ("[a]ny third-party release in connection with a
 21 plan or reorganization, at a minimum, must be fully disclosed and purely voluntary on the part of
 22 the releasing parties and cannot unfairly discriminate against others.").

23
 24 ¹² Other bankruptcy courts in recent contested chapter 11 cases have approved plan exculpation clauses
 25 at least as broad, if not broader, in scope than that proposed in these Chapter 11 Cases. See, e.g., *In re*
 26 *Citadel Broadcasting, Inc.*, Case No. 09-17442, 2010 WL 210808, at *30 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. May 19,
 27 2010) ("Exculpated Claims" included all claims relating to the debtors' in or out of court restructuring
 28 efforts, and "Exculpated Parties" included, among others, the holders of the senior secured debt and their
 agent, the agent and indenture trustee for the subordinated noteholders, and each of their respective
 professionals and affiliates); *In re CIT Group, Inc.*, Case No. 09-16565, 2009 WL 4824498 (Bankr.
 S.D.N.Y. Dec. 8, 2009) at *25 (the exculpated parties included a steering committee of prepetition
 lenders, the DIP lenders and their agent, the exit facility lenders and their agent, the indenture trustees for
 the unsecured note issuances).

1 144. Here, the Third Party Release was plainly described on the Ballot used to solicit
 2 votes in favor of the Plan. Thus, the Third Party Release does not violate Section 524(e) or any
 3 of the concerns discussed in *Lowenschuss*, and is an appropriate term of the Plan under Section
 4 1123(a)(5) (and is expressly authorized by Section 1123(b)(3)(A), the settlement or adjustment
 5 of any claim belong to the debtor or the estate).

6 145. The Court concludes that the settlements, compromises, releases, exculpations,
 7 discharges and injunctions set forth in Article X of the Plan are fair, equitable, reasonable and in
 8 the best interests of the Debtors and their respective Estates and the Holders of Claims and
 9 Equity Interests, and are approved.

10 **4. The Transferee Parties Shall Not be
 11 Liable Under Any Successor Liability Theories**

12 146. The operation of Sections 363 and 1141 foreclose the ability of creditors to obtain
 13 a finding of successor liability against the transferees of the Debtors' assets. It would undermine
 14 the purposes of chapter 11 if creditors could get around the effect of confirmation of a chapter 11
 15 plan by asserting successor liability claims after confirmation. *See e.g., In re Trans World*
 16 *Airlines*, 322 F.3d at 292 (to allow some general unsecured creditors to assert successor liability
 17 claims against transferee of debtors' assets, while limiting other creditors' recourse to proceeds
 18 of sale, would be inconsistent with Bankruptcy Code's priority scheme). In this case, if the Plan
 19 did not foreclose successor liability, the purchasers of the Subsidiary Debtor assets likely would
 20 not go forward with the sales, and the creditors receiving equity in Reorganized Aliante Gaming
 21 in exchange for their first priority secured claims likely would not support the Plan.

22 147. The Court has performed the successor liability analysis under applicable non-
 23 bankruptcy law, including under Nevada law, and the Court finds no basis at all for successor
 24 liability. Therefore, the Court concludes that the applicable transferees of the New Opcos
 25 Acquired Assets, New Propco Acquired Assets, Landco Assets, Aliante Holdings Assets and the
 26 Transferred Aliante Hotel Assets and their Related Persons are not successors of the Debtors or
 27 the SCI Debtors, and, therefore, the "no successor liability" provisions of the Plan are consistent
 28 with applicable law and shall be enforced in the Confirmation Order.

1 **E. EXEMPTIONS FROM SECURITIES LAWS.**

2 148. Article IX.A. of the Disclosure Statement, entitled "U.S. Securities Law Matters,"
 3 provides adequate notice to all parties in interest that, subject to certain exceptions discussed in
 4 Article IX, "all debt instruments, to the extent they constitute securities, and equity securities that
 5 are offered and issued in conjunction with the Joint Plan will not be registered under the
 6 Securities Act or any similar federal, state, or local law in reliance upon the exemptions set forth
 7 in Section 1145 of the Bankruptcy Code or, if applicable, in reliance on the exemption set forth
 8 in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act or Regulation D promulgated thereunder."

9 **F. EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXATION.**

10 149. Pursuant to Section 1146(a), any transfers of property pursuant to the Plan shall
 11 not be subject to any Stamp or Similar Tax. The Confirmation Order will provide that all
 12 federal, state or local governmental officials or agents shall forgo the collection of any such
 13 Stamp or Similar Tax or governmental assessment in connection with transfers of property under
 14 the Plan, and accept for filing and recordation instruments or other documents pursuant to such
 15 transfers of property without the payment of any such Stamp or Similar Tax or governmental
 16 assessment. Such exemption specifically applies, without limitation, to all actions, agreements
 17 and documents necessary to evidence and implement the provisions of and the distributions to be
 18 made under the Plan and the transfers of property under the Restructuring Transactions,
 19 including without limitation the recordation of any mortgage pursuant to the New Opco Purchase
 20 Agreement, New Opco Implementation Agreements, Landco Assets Transfer Agreement, New
 21 Propco Implementation Agreements and New Aliante Transaction Agreements.

22 **G. THE PLAN MODIFICATIONS ARE APPROVED**

23 150. The Plan Modifications do not require resolicitation of acceptances of the Plan for
 24 the following reasons. First, the Prepetition Opco Secured Lenders, the only creditors impacted
 25 by the inclusion of TSI as a Subsidiary Debtor under the Plan, consented to such Plan
 26 modification, and no other creditor of TSI objected to the Plan. Second, the Plan Modifications
 27 in respect of the Aliante Debtors have the effect of resolving what had been, as of the Petition
 28 Date, unresolved issues relating to the management of the Aliante Station Casino and Hotel

1 during these Chapter 11 Cases and after the Effective Date, and thereby only enhance the
 2 feasibility of the Plan with respect to the creditors of the Aliante Debtors, and add the Aliante IP
 3 License Agreement as a New Aliante Transaction Agreement. Third, the Plan Modifications do
 4 not prejudice the treatment of the Claims of any Holder of Claims against or Equity Interests in
 5 the Debtors under the Plan. Accordingly, all Voting Classes that voted to accept the Plan are
 6 deemed to have accepted the Plan Modifications as well.

7 151. The Subsidiary Debtors' solicitation of consents from the Prepetition Opco
 8 Secured Lenders with respect to the Plan Modifications satisfied the requirements of Section
 9 1125; and the Plan, inclusive of the Plan Modifications, meets the requirements of Sections 1121
 10 through 1129, including, without limitation, the requirements of Section 1127 and Federal Rule
 11 of Bankruptcy Procedure 3019 with respect to plan modifications before confirmation of a plan.

12 152. The Plan, inclusive of the Plan Modifications, shall be confirmed pursuant to
 13 Section 1129.

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